



ALCHEMY EMPEROR OF THE DIVINE DAO

BOOK 04

Flying Alone

EPUB CREATION BY LISA HAYES

Alchemy Emperor of the Divine Dao

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Synopsis

An ultimate warrior, the one and only Alchemy Emperor, Ling Han, had died in his quest to achieve godhood. Ten thousands years later, and he, with the “Invincible Heaven Scroll”, was reborn in the body of a young man with the same name. From then on, winds and clouds moved, as he set himself against uncountable geniuses of this new era. His path of becoming a legend has begun once more. At all eras, and underneath the heavens, I am the strongest!

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Chapter 301: Who Dares to Resist

"Brother Zhong, kill him!"

"Yes, kill him!"

"We of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North aren't weaklings!"

The crowd was infuriated, but Cheng Fei Jun made no sound. He recognized the mark on Bao Xin Ran's sleeve—this was a large sect's disciple, so it wasn't worthwhile for him to offend the latter.

Anyways, it was just Zhong He Guang, so what if he died. There were still many talents left, and it didn't matter if there was one less or one more.

Ling Han frowned and said, "Zhong He Guang's going to suffer."

"Why?!" Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan asked with surprise.

"Because that little brat is already at the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier!" Guang Yuan followed.

What!?

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan revealed a shocked expression at the same time—a Spiritual Ocean Tier warrior in his twenties? No way, one couldn't even be found in the Rain Country! Erm, recently one certainly emerged... Feng Yan was one, and Yan Tian Zhao was even younger, only fifteen!

Normally speaking, people were over thirty before they entered the Spiritual Ocean Tier... even thirty-year-old Gushing Spring Tier warriors were already not bad.

No wonder the people of the north region were so impressive; any random person that came running out was a martial arts genius?

"This fight mustn't be fought!" Zhu Wu Jiu shot up onto his feet; this was definitely an unfair battle.

Ling Han nodded and said, "You go stop it, and have Can Ye return."

"Yes!" Zhu Wu Jiu hurriedly left following the order, but it was already too late. Zhong He Guang was already unable to suppress his anger, lashing his whip at Bao Xin Rang. Shua , the long whip turned into a spirit snake as Origin Power surged and layers of ripples swept through the air, extremely shocking.

Bao Xin Rang simply smiled coldly and pointed with a finger on his left hand. It was strangely accurate, touching the middle of the whip, and an even stronger Origin Power surged. The long whip was instantly softened as if it had been hit at its weakest point.

Zhong He Guang was stunned. He was just about to bounce back by lashing his whip, but Bao Xin Ran already flew out. His speed was unusually fast—as his feet moved, he already appeared in front of Zhong He Guang, cracking a smile.

Zhong He Guang was extremely panic-stricken and was about to attack without his whip, but Bao Xin Ran flicked at his forehead, and with a pa , he was instantly sent flying. When he was in midair, his head fiercely exploded, red and white stuff splashing everywhere.

Hiss!

Everyone shivered as they watched; this was one of the strongest prodigies of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, but now he was killed like a mole cricket—how could they accept this?

Frightened and trembling with fear, they started to wonder what the hell were they going to the Winter Moon Sect for if the north region was filled with such monsters. In order to enter the mountain gates, they'd definition have to experience intense competition, and anyone could casually kill them.

They came out to seek higher martial arts tiers, not to give their lives!

In that instant, the thought of retreating occurred to quite a few people.

"Don't you guys think that it's most beautiful when a person's brain explodes?" Bao Xin Ran said with a hint of indulgence, then changed to a chilly voice and said, "It was truly unexpected for me that you mole crickets of the Desolate North can actually be this beautiful when dying. Truly inconceivable!"

This wasn't a complement, and it enraged everyone. However, thinking about the other party's strength, no one dared to clamor.

"You're not at the Gushing Spring Tier!" Yu Shui Yun said. Zhong He Guang was at the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, and it would be impossible for anyone at the Gushing Spring Tier to kill him in two moves—only one at the Spiritual Ocean Tier had such ability.

Pa, pa, pa, pa, Bao Xin Ran started to clap his hands and said with smile, "Finally a smart one. Of course I couldn't possibly be a Gushing Spring Tier warrior. How could a prodigy like me already at the age of twenty-five possibly be a dreg at the Gushing Spring Tier?"

"The Spiritual Ocean Tier!" everyone cried out, and became extremely furious at the same time. What was a Spiritual Ocean Tier expert coming here to sadistically kill the Gushing Spring Tier warriors trying to do?

Bao Xin Ran stepped down. Lines of fabric expanded, forming a green sign.

Martial intent manifesting outside—the mark of a Spiritual Ocean Tier.

"Sir, you've gone too far. A dignified Spiritual Ocean Tier expert hiding his cultivation and killing people at every turn... Don't you think bullied us intolerably?" Bai Yu Quan said with power and resonance.

"Good! Well Said!" Everyone cheered him on. One at the Spiritual Ocean Tier shouldn't bully people like this, and it wasn't as if there weren't any Spiritual Ocean Tier warriors in the Nine Nations of the Desolate North.

Bao Xin Ran picked his ear and said, "Gone too far what? I'm the same age as you guys. As for why my tier is higher and my strength surpasses you guys, this is because my talent is greater, and you're all just dregs. As dregs, you should have the resolution of being stepped on by me."

"Utterly detestable!"

"Go at him together, at worst few dozens will die, but we have to kill him no matter what!"

"Yes, we of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North aren't to be trifled with!"

Bao Xin Ran's provocations finally made everyone suppress their fear, and only endless rage remained. They had to kill this arrogant guy no matter what to vent their anger.

"Oh, kill me?" Bao Xin Ran sneered, raised his left hand high up, circled it around everyone and said, "Dregs, do you see this mark? This is the Cold Water Sect's sleeve mark, I am a disciple of the Cold Water Sect. Not to mention whether you guys can kill me or not, even if you pull it off, not only will you guys die, but also the families behind you will die and even your country will be destroyed!

Because I am the Cold Water Sect's disciple, understand, you dregs!?"

Bao Xin Ran loftily placed his left hand down. "Now, which dreg is still not convinced?"

In an instant, the entire crowd lost its voice.

The Spiritual Ocean Tier was of course nothing—unified, they could still kill him while putting up a desperate fight. But the Cold

Water Sect? Being called a sect meant that there was at least one Spiritual Infant Tier cultivator guarding it, and that was an unimaginable power.

Even those with great valor had to consider their families and their own country behind them. What kind of calamity would it be if they attracted a leviathan like the Cold Water Sect?

"Now, get back to your kennels. Whoever dares to leave the Fallen Moon Gorge, I'll cut off their damn head!" Bao Xin Ran said coldly.

This time, everyone finally knew that the other party intentionally stopped them from entering the north region. At this critical juncture, there were only two possibilities... first, Bao Xin Ran didn't want them to attend the auction tomorrow, and second, he didn't want them to attend the Winter Moon Sect's entrance exam.

Or both were possible.

"What are you all still so hesitant about?" Bao Xin Ran glared. His personal strength could crush them, and on top of the leviathan, the Cold Water Sect, which stood behind his back, he naturally had the confidence to be unbridled.

Damn it!

Everyone clenched their fists tightly, so tightly that their bones made a crackling sound. Were so many of them actually going to go back home with their tails between their legs just because of a youngster?

"That's right, I think I also heard earlier that there are many hundred year ginseng and ganodermas!" Bao Xin Ran revealed a smile and greed flashed before his gaze. "Before leaving, leave all the ginseng, ganoderma, and Origin Power Crystals. If anyone dares to stash it, I'll kill them no matter what!"

The crowd was in uproar.

Chapter 302: Asking Grandmaster Ling to Act

He'd gone too far. Not only was he chasing them back to the Desolate North, he was actually planning on robbing them as well!

"Grandmaster Cheng, don't you plan on saying anything?" someone asked Cheng Fei Jun. The latter was the organizer of this Martial Arts Tea Party, and now that something like this happened, how could the host simply just stand by and watch?

Since he was pointed out by this person, Cheng Fei Jun could only stand up and say, "Bao Xin Ran, this is the Fallen Moon Gorge and the territory of our Star Brilliance Palace Hall. Is it really proper for you to strut around here?"

"Yi, a Black Grade high level alchemist?" Bao Xin Ran's eyes swept over him, and he could not help but pick at his ear. "It can't be that you're an impostor, right? You don't seem that much older than me, so how could you be a Black Grade high level alchemist?"

He naturally knew what the three silver plaques hanging on Cheng Fei Jun's chest meant.

Cheng Fei Jun's face instantly darkened. Was everyone not taking him to heart anymore now? He humphed and declared, "I am Cheng Fei Jun. Get out of this town immediately. Otherwise, the Star Defense Force will chase you out."

When they heard these words, everyone felt vexed. His head was already being stepped on by another, yet the only thing he could do was make the other leave. How hateful.

"Is that right?" Bao Xin Ran smiled calmly, and casually withdrew a tiny flag which he stuck into the ground. Xiu, the flag suddenly grew as wind blew against it, becoming a huge flag that was ten meters tall.

There was a river drawn on the flag, and pure-white snow

surrounded it on all sides. One glance was enough to make one feel cold all over, as if he had entered into a world of ice and snow.

No, no, no. This was not merely a feeling, but was quite real. They could clearly feel that the temperature of their surroundings had dropped considerably, and was still continuing to decrease.

"The Cold Water Sect's flag!" Cheng Fei Jun exclaimed in shock, and his expression turned extremely ugly.

Bao Xin Ran laughed and said, "That's right, my sect is planning to use this land for something, and I hope that Grandmaster Cheng will give us some face. Otherwise, please do not blame my sect for not giving you face!"

Cheng Fei Jun's chest rose and fell sharply, hinting at the internal struggle he was experiencing. In the end, however, he fell down to sit on the ground. He had organized this Martial Arts Tea Party in his own name, and thus it had nothing to do with the Star Brilliance Palace Hall.

As a result, he had no way to bring out the name of the Alchemist's Association. The name of a Black Grade high level alchemist was indeed very awesome, and not even the bigger sects would dare to harm him, but this did not mean that the former definitely had to give him some face.

Bao Xin Ran could completely set him to one side and ignore him, and how could it be that he would dare to run to the Cold Water Sect and voice his objections?

When they saw even Cheng Fei Jun had cowered, everyone felt a sense of hopelessness. Could it be that they, a few thousand people, were going to be robbed by one person? Even if this robber was in the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

They'd have to flee!

Anyways, this guy was only one person. If everyone fled at the same time, how could he be able to stop them all?

"There is no way you can flee." Bao Xin Ran smiled. "This is the flag of my sect, and once it is open, the area within one mile of it will all be sealed. Without my approval, no one would be able to flee. Now, hand over the stuff obediently," he commanded coldly.

He was here under the command of his master to stop the people here from entering the north region and participating in the entrance test for the Winter Moon Sect as the the Cold Water Sect and the Winter Moon Sect were not on good terms. If he was able to weaken the other sect, or even deliberately embarrass them a bit, it would be good.

However, when he arrived, he actually discovered that a large amount of hundred-year-old ginseng and ganoderma had appeared, which instantly made him very happy. He was really going to make a lot of money this time round.

"Grandmaster Ling, we can only depend on you now!" Qi Yong Ye and the others came over and gathered around Ling Han.

"Grandmaster Ling, just beat this guy to death!"

"That's right, that guy is really too despicable!"

There was an Earth Grade alchemist here, and even if it was the sect master of the Cold Water Sect who had personally arrived, he would still have to give some face to Ling Han. Just like how the Spiritual Pedestal Tier warriors were still mortals whereas the Flower Blossoming Tier was equivalent to becoming immortal, once an alchemist ascended to Earth Grade, his status would also spike sharply and was not something that a Black Grade high level alchemist would be able to compare to.

Moreover, Ling Han's battle prowess was publicly acknowledged. He had consecutively defeated Feng Yan and Yan Tian Zhao, so he was practically a monster.

Ling Han could not help but smile and asked, "Didn't you guys want me not to make a move?"

They were all embarrassed now. They had previously hoped that Ling Han would not make a move merely because they had wanted to take the first place in this Martial Arts Tea Party. But now that an outsider had arrived and was sweeping them all over with his superior ability of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, they could only choose to ask Ling Han to suppress him.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were also urging him as well. If Ling Han stepped out at this moment and defeated Bao Xin Ran with an invincible stance, that would be equivalent to confirming his status as the strongest among the younger generation of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North.

They naturally hoped that the man they loved could win such a good name for himself.

Ling Han smiled and stood up. There was nothing else that could be done. Bao Xin Ran wanted to rob them all—this was in a direct conflict with Ling Han's own interests.

Someone wanted to rob his stuff? There was nothing else that needed to be said, he just simply had to kill the robber.

Ling Han's killing intent circulated. This was not the Rain Country that had Rain Emperor there to curb his actions. Moreover, he had now become an Earth Grade alchemist, and in terms of status, he was above the Rain Emperor, so if he wanted to kill someone... who was capable of stopping him?

"You want to rob my stuff?" Ling Han asked as he walked so that he was standing in front of Bao Xin Ran. Hu Niu, meanwhile, was holding onto one corner of Ling Han's shirt and standing on one side. She could not help but bare her teeth. Someone actually wanted rob Ling Han's stuff?

Ling Han was Niu's, so Ling Han's stuff was naturally Niu's too... then what you were robbing was Niu's stuff!

Hu Niu was very angry!

"A piece of trash in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier?" Bao Xin Ran snorted. "Since when could even a piece of trash in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier dare to stand in front of me and speak? Kneel!" He issued a light shout and the sound wave solidified, sweeping towards Ling Han.

He had not cultivated any martial arts technique that was specifically focused on sound attacks, but with his cultivation of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, this shout was like a lion's roar and was completely capable of tearing apart the skin, flesh, blood, and bones of someone in the Gushing Spring Tier.

Xiu , Ling Han had not even moved when Hu Niu did. Her tiny body was like a beam of light that instantly appeared above Bao Xin Ran's head.

Pa, pa, pa, pa, pa. The little girl slapped Bao Xin Ran's face repeatedly.

Pu!

When they saw this, everyone choked. A five-or six-year-old little girl was madly oppressing Bao Xin Ran. Was this a dream? Only the martial artists from the Rain Country looked proud. Previously, even someone as strong as Yan Tian Zhao was heavily suppressed by Hu Niu, so much that he could only win by using a powerful move. In the end, he was almost scattered and smashed with one slash by Ling Han, though.

This adult and child were definitely monsters among monsters. What more when Ling Han had even become an Earth Grade alchemist by now, which made them only capable of sweating in the face of his ability. He was practically a monster without any limits.

"Ah...!" Bao Xin Ran was stunned by the attack, but immediately came back to himself. He was mighty and overbearing for half the day, but now he was actually slapped in front of everyone's eyes. How humiliating was that?

He quickly waved his fist in a strike at Hu Niu. However, Hu Niu was too fast. With a xiu , she had appeared behind him and launched another series of attacks.

Instantly, Bao Xin Ran's back burst open and blood flew in all directions.

"Damn it! Damn it!" After a few failed attempts at trying to catch Hu Niu, Bao Xin Ran knew that she was far faster than him. He hurriedly leaped to stand next to the flag. Taking hold of it, he shouted loudly, "Cold water is invincible, freezing a thousand miles!"

Hong , a white-colored cold air gushed out from the flag, instantly freezing the area within one hundred feet of it, everything becoming ice cubes.

Ling Han and Hu Niu were not exempted either, and both of them were frozen solid.

Chapter 303: Two Monsters

What a grand move. It had instantly stopped two people in their steps.

Everyone had initially been exclaiming their praises, but when they saw this, they could not help but feel their hope was lost.

Bao Xin Ran was already powerful enough by himself, but now that he actually possessed an even more powerful Spirit Tool, who would be able to stand against him? This flag was obviously a Spirit Tool. Once the martial intent contained in it was awakened, it would exude a cold air that was capable of freezing its surroundings solid, so who was capable of even getting near to it?

According to the rumors, the most priceless treasure of the Cold Water Sect was called the Cold Water Flag. Once this flag was unfurled, it would really freeze everything within a thousand miles of it, so it was extremely frightening. This flag was merely an imitation of it, so its power was in no way comparable to the real Cold Water Flag... However, how could it not be enough to suppress two Gushing Spring Tier martial artists?

Bao Xin Ran spat onto the ground. A little girl actually made him activate the flag to subdue her, it was really a bit embarrassing.

Meanwhile, Cheng Fei Jun smirked coldly. He had originally depended on Luo Ji Feng to kill Ling Han, but the former had not managed to succeed even after so many days. Secretly, he had called him scornfully as a piece of trash.

But now, Bao Xin Ran was actually going to help fulfill his heart's desire. This made him almost want to rush up and embrace Bao Xin Ran and give him a kiss of thanks. What a wonderful man!

Ka, ka, ka. It was at this moment that a sudden change occurred.

There was a large area on the ice enveloping Ling Han that was suddenly covered with spiderweb-like cracks. It was visible that

there was a crimson flame circulating all over his body, and this flame had already melted a hole into the ice.

The Strange Fire!

Cheng Fei Jun's eyes instantly reddened. He had had a Strange Fire before, so even though he was located very far away from it, he could sense a sliver of familiarity about that Strange Fire. However, it was also completely different as well.

...His own Strange Fire had been completely swallowed by Ling Han's Strange Fire.

It was obvious that this Strange Fire was even more powerful. As it had been fused from two Strange Fires, this was natural.

'I want it! I want it! I want it!' Cheng Fei Jun called out internally. It was able to melt even the ice produced by the flag, so the might of the Strange Fire had to be exceptionally powerful.

And yet, the ka, ka, ka sounds had not originated from the ice block enveloping Ling Han, but from Hu Niu's side. They could only watch as the little girl opened her mouth and continued to chew. She endlessly bit through the ice, swallowing and chewing very quickly.

In only a few moments, her little head had appeared, and was currently in the process of freeing the other parts of her body quickly.

F***, what kind of glutton was she that she could even devour this kind of ice?

Bao Xin Ran's face twitched. These were two f***** monsters! Especially Hu Niu, what kind of teeth did she have!?

Immediately, his killing intent rose. He fixed his stare on Hu Niu. As of this moment, she had not freed herself, so he was completely able to kill her easily. Qiang, the twin swords at his waist left their sheaths, and flickered with a cold light like water.

"Hey, have you forgotten me?" Ling Han smiled calmly.

"You're just a piece of trash in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier. I'll kill you first, then kill this little girl!" Bao Xin Ran flew forwards, and charged towards Ling Han. He raised his two swords in a slash, and hong , martial intent circulated as ice and snow flew all around.

This was no illusion, but real ice and snow. Once one managed to break through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier, they could release their martial intent out of their bodies and affect the world, forming a solid attack. Every bit of ice and snow shone with a tiny pattern and possessed a terrifying destructive power.

Bao Xin Ran had previously underestimated Ling Han. Since he was able to easily free himself from the ice produced by the flag, Ling Han was worthy to die by his hand.

Ling Han drew his sword and the Four Seasons Sword Technique circulated. The images of Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter circulated, forming a natural cycle.

Bao Xin Ran's attack had martial intent as its basis so it was obviously stronger, but Ling Han's power was not too much weaker, either. Added together with the fact that the Four Seasons Sword Technique was a Black Grade high level martial arts technique and possessed formidable power, this was adequate to compensate for his lack of martial intent.

Hong, hong, hong . The two of them continuously exchanged blows, and it actually seemed difficult to decide the victor in this short amount of time.

"Quickly, pinch me. Am I dreaming? How is it possible that I'm seeing a guy in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier exchange blows with a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite?" someone mumbled.

"My eyes must have blurred. Haha, how could this be possible!"

"F***, I'm going to go crazy. Is this really the Gushing Spring

Tier?"

When they saw this scene, aside from the martial artists from the Rain Country, all the others looked like they had gone mad, grabbing their heads and screaming. This was really surreal, wasn't it? A mere martial artist at the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier was actually able to face a Spiritual Ocean Tier elite head on and not be at the disadvantage, this was practically a fantasy.

Though Hu Niu was also in the Gushing Spring Tier, but at least she had not faced Bao Xin Ran head on and emerged victorious because of her superior speed. This, at least, was still acceptable to them. But in Ling Han's case... he definitely had the aura of the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, yet was able to face an opponent in the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier head on and exchange blows with him. This was practically enough to blind their dog eyes.

The Gushing Spring Tier could actually be this powerful?

Not just Ling Han, but also Hu Niu. Neither was at a disadvantage when they faced Bao Xin Ran, and showed perfectly what a monster was, and what a freak was.

"You guys don't know yet, right? He's Ling Han!" someone from the Rain Country declared.

"W-what!? He's Grandmaster Ling, Earth Grade alchemist?!"

"That's right!"

"How could that be?! He looks to be only about sixteen or seventeen years old! Aaaah! I'm really going to go crazy, a young man sixteen or seventeen years old is not only capable of facing a Spiritual Ocean Tier opponent head on, but is also an Earth Grade alchemist!"

"I have always been praised as a genius, but why is it that when I compare myself to him, I feel like an idiot?"

"I'm an idiot too."

"Idiot here as well."

Everyone sighed. At first, they had all felt they were quite capable, always feeling that no matter what, they could still be considered quite powerful amongst the younger generation, but they had only found out now that they were merely ignorant and thought too highly of themselves.

On the other side, Hu Niu had naturally bit her way out of the ice trapping her. However, when she saw Ling Han was currently embroiled in a furious battle with Bao Xin Ran, she had decided not to rush in and join the battle. She had a very strong sensitivity about battles and knew that Ling Han had not displayed his full battle prowess yet, so he was definitely able to win. As a result, she had naturally chosen not to interfere.

Bao Xin Ran was shocked. He was genuinely in the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier and his opponent was clearly only in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, yet the latter possessed battle prowess that was not the slightest bit weaker than his. How could he accept this reality?

What if his opponent also broke through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier? Wouldn't that mean he would be instantly wiped out in a single move?

No, he definitely could not allow such a genius to continue living.

He leaped up, intending to once again activate the flag to freeze Ling Han solid and thus kill him easily.

"You're planning on using the same trick twice?" Ling Han smirked coldly. He had accumulated enough power for Mysterious Three Thousand and was ready to strike at any moment. This powerful move merely needed the time equivalent for three breaths to prepare, and so was very quickly ready.

Bao Xin Ran's hand had already touched the flag. He wanted to

pull out the flag and use it as a weapon to sweep at Ling Han. If Ling Han was actually struck in this way, he would first be frozen solid, then shattered by the powerful force of the attack.

That naturally meant a thorough death.

Hong , four flashes of light from the sword shone at the same time. One flash was the real sword, whereas the other three were Sword Qi. Then, they evolved into a total of four hundred sword flashes that blasted towards Bao Xin Ran.

A powerful shock and extreme fear shone from Bao Xin Ran's eyes, and he hurriedly pulled out the flag to parry this attack.

Pu, pu, pu, pu . As the sword flashes washed over without restraint, it produced a world-shaking effect.

Bao Xin Ran stumbled back in retreat. His whole body was covered with wounds and a large number of them were bone-deep, exposing the scary white of his bones. He had completely lost every bit of his previous demeanor.

However, since he was able to parry the Mysterious Three Thousand and not die, he could be considered quite capable.

...The battle flag had blocked a large portion of the attack. Otherwise, he would still be dead.

Chapter 304: Becoming an Idol

Everyone was astonished, and those like Lian Xiu Zhu, Bai Yu Quan, and the others were filled with embarrassment.

How could they not be?

They all thought of themselves as geniuses of their generation that could only be rivalled by a rare few in their age range, all filled with an absolute confidence, thinking that if they really put all their effort into the battle, they were definitely capable of obtaining the final victory.

But Bao Xin Ran's appearance had naturally dealt a heavy blow to their self-confidence.

They were both in their mid-twenties, but Bao Xin Ran was already in the middle stage of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and the gap between them and him was extraordinarily big. But that was fine, because Bao Xin Ran came from the Cold Water Sect which was a great party, so it was reasonable that they could not compare to him.

However, Ling Han actually managed to exchange successive blows with Bao Xin Ran and that was already enough to give them a jaw-dropping shock, yet he now succeeded in heavily injuring Bao Xin Ran with a single slash. This made them have no choice but to admit the fact that they had been extremely ignorant in the past.

...If they actually found out this one strike was not Ling Han's full power as he had only launched four hundred sword flashes, their facial expressions would probably be even uglier.

What was even more horrifying was the fact that Ling Han was also an Earth Grade alchemist.

Would anyone actually dare to believe this?

Ling Han smiled calmly. He had not put his full effort into this

strike because he had not wanted to become completely weakened after he had launched this attack. That feeling was really much too unpleasant.

Moreover, Bao Xin Ran was not that powerful, so there was no need to use eight hundred sword flashes to deal with him.

Pu , though Bao Xin Ran was still standing upright, he was continuously coughing up blood. His whole body was shaking and a large part of the flesh and blood on his limbs had been torn off by the blow, so it was enough of a feat for him to even remain standing. He held tightly onto the flag, as he was only able to remain standing with the support of the flag.

"You, who exactly are you?!" he asked defiantly. How was it that someone in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier was so strong?

"For someone who is about to lose their life, what is the point of knowing so much?" Ling Han said coldly.

"You dare kill me?" Bao Xin Ran laughed coldly. "I am a disciple of the Cold Water Sect, if you dare to kill me, the powerful elites of my sect will definitely raze the country you are from to the ground. The pride of a great sect cannot be violated!"

"I'm afraid you are going to be disappointed, because I am also an Earth Grade alchemist. Do you think that the members of the Cold Water Sect will offend me, an Earth Grade alchemist, for the sake of a mere disciple like you?" Ling Han asked calmly.

Previously, though they had all been talking about it, Bao Xin Ran had been engaged in a furious battle with Ling Han, so how could he have heard when he had his full concentration on the fight? His first reaction upon hearing this now was that Ling Han had to be joking. How could it be possible that there would be such a young Earth Grade alchemist in this world?"

"That's impossible!" he said immediately.

"You need not bother about that anymore, obediently lay beneath the ground. In your next life, you should not be so overbearing, particularly when you're in front of me!" Ling Han's sword pierced out. He had no plans to leave Bao Xin Ran alive to make trouble for him later on.

"Damn it!" Though Bao Xin Ran was injured, his internal and vital organs were not injured. He put all his effort into activating the flag and swept it towards Ling Han.

Hu, hu, hu. The flag waved and swept out a freezing cold wind capable of freezing someone to death.

Hong , the Strange Fire circulated by Ling Han's side and provided a layer of fire to shield him, dispersing the cold air that was sweeping towards him. Thus, the greatest effect of this flag was rendered useless.

Ling Han struck repeatedly. His battle prowess was higher than Bao Xin Ran's and the latter was unable to stand against Ling Han even after using the flag, so how could he block his subsequent attacks? Within a few moves, his throat was slashed by Ling Han's sword. As blood spurted out from his wound, he fell onto the ground loudly.

His eyes were filled with disbelief. Not too long ago, he was as disdainful as a god looking upon mortals, and killed them as if they were mere grass. But just how long ago had that time been that he would suffer a similar fate now?

Ironic, it was really too ironic.

He opened his eyes wide in defiance, trying his best to retain this piece of the sky in his sight, but the only scene left for him was darkness.

"My master will definitely avenge me!" He left behind these last words, and filled with a longing for life, breathed his last.

"Ling Han!"

"Grandmaster Ling!"

"Grandmaster Ling is mighty!"

"Long live Grandmaster Ling!"

The whole plaza was completely lit on fire. Young people would not have so many worries or thoughts. They only knew that an outsider had come and suppressed them so much that no one dared raise their heads, and it was Ling Han who had stepped out and defeated this outsider.

This outsider slaughtered them without any bit of hesitation, and in the end, was killed by Ling Han without mercy. As the saying goes, a tooth for a tooth and blood for blood—they were overjoyed!

In comparison, what could Cheng Fei Jun count as? As a Black Grade high level alchemist, he did not even manage to suppress a martial artist of the Spiritual Ocean Tier. That was practically a joke.

This was a bit unjust to Cheng Fei Jun. Because the great sects usually had their own in-house alchemists, they were basically able to satisfy the needs for alchemical pills of their own disciples and would only make requests to the Alchemist's Association for certain special pills. However, in ordinary cases, they would be able to solve the problem by simply making a trip to the Spirit Treasures Pavilion and taking part in an auction there.

Thus, the great sects were merely wary of the combined force of the Alchemist's Association, but because they did not have a direct need of external alchemists' services, they did not attach too much importance to alchemists. For examples, Feng Yan could declare his intention to cripple Ling Han's legs without care. As long as he did not kill Ling Han, the Alchemist's Association would not come forward in Ling Han's defense.

After all, the great sects would be wary of the Alchemist's Association, but the Alchemist's Association would not easily turn

hostile against the great sects, either.

Naturally, the status of an Earth Grade alchemist was much higher. Any sect would gladly treat one as honored guest, and if they actually managed to invite one such alchemist to stay with them as a respected elder, that would mean a great boost to the sect's own ability.

Cheng Fei Jun's face was completely ashen. He was the one who had organized this Martial Arts Tea Party, and had even disregarded his hard-earned capital and took out a Restore Heart Pill, but now, great. Ling Han had instead become the brightest star now, so much that even he, the organizer, was actually set to one side and ignored.

This damn guy, why was he not dead yet!?

No, he had to make another visit to Luo Ji Feng again tonight and convince him to act no matter what.

Ling Han was all smiles as he said, "Everyone, please don't forget to come to Pleasure Come Inn. There is still a large supply of hundred-year-old ginseng and ganoderma, as long as you possess enough Origin Crystals, there'll be enough for everyone."

"Hahahaha!" Everyone laughed loudly. At first, Earth Grade alchemists were high, noble people, as they were Big Bosses that were even higher in status than the ruler of a nation. Yet someone like that would actually come down to their level and peddle goods. This had really shortened the distance between such an esteemed person and common people like themselves.

"We'll definitely come to help out with Grandmaster Ling's business!"

"If we're really being honest, we're the ones making a huge profit since we can actually purchase hundred-year-old ginsengs and ganoderma."

"Thank you, Grandmaster Ling."

Everyone expressed their thanks sincerely. After all, as long as a Spiritual Ocean Tier warrior was willing to actually refine them, they could produce Origin Crystals at any time, but how could hundred-year-old ginseng and ganoderma be so easily obtained? Even if their clans were willing to set up a Spirit Field to cultivate these plants, they would take a long time to be ready for harvest and would only benefit their descendants.

Moreover, this kind of Spirit Herbs had extremely strict requirements of their environment. To reach the hundred year age, who knew how much effort and sacrifice had to go into cultivation? It was not merely the passing of a hundred years' time.

Thus, even for the colossal entities like the Imperial Families, even if they had their own herb gardens, it was already shocking enough to have thirty-or fifty-year-old Spirit Herbs such as ginseng; where would they be able to obtain hundred-year-old ginseng?

This move of Ling Han not only helped him earn a large amount of Origin Crystals, but also win the appreciation and gratitude of the younger generation of the Nine Nations. This was truly the case of idly poking a stick into the ground and ending up with a tree that grew just to provide shade for you. An unintentional action brought to Ling Han an unexpected success, which was enough to make Cheng Fei Jun die of envy.

Chapter 305: The Next Step

Cheng Fei Jun had organized this Martial Arts Tea Party firstly to select some outstanding geniuses—Luo Ji Feng would recruit them. Secondly, he wanted to establish his individual reputation and name. When he stepped out later to personally convince them, his identity as a Black Grade high level alchemist would naturally make it easier to convince them to join.

However, Cheng Fei Jun had now been completely left behind and forgotten in a corner, whereas Ling Han gained everyone's approval and gratitude. This really made Cheng Fei Jun fume in fury.

...Who asked him to retreat at the most crucial moment?

In the world of martial arts, even if your ability was weak, if you actually battled with all your effort and died, others would still give you a thumbs-up and proclaim you as a real man. However, if one were to flee without even daring to put up a fight or cower from the battle in public, that was an act that would engender disdain the most.

Ling Han clasped his fists together and returned with Liu Yu Tong and the others back to the inn. On the way there, Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were still recalcitrant, saying that since Ling Han had obtained the first place, he should have asked Cheng Fei Jun for that Restore Heart Pill.

This made Ling Han laugh loudly, as well as made him feel disdainful. Just think—he, the one and only Alchemy Emperor... how could it be that he would still need to take the low quality, trash pill concocted by a Black Grade high level alchemist?

That was really too much of a joke.

Not long after they had returned to the inn, customers surged forth like clouds.

Zhu Wu Jiu was already very busy, and Guang Yuan and Can Ye went to help him as well. Later, not just the younger generation of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North came forth with their Original Crystals, but even quite a number of alchemists from the Star Brilliance Palace Hall came when they heard the news.

Anyone who had yet to break through to the Flower Blossoming Tier was mortal, and a mortal's lifespan was merely as long as a hundred years, so who would not want to live for a few years longer? The more power these elders possessed, the more they treasured their lives were willing to make any sacrifice as long as they could live for a few years longer.

The effects of hundred-year ginseng and ganoderma were not to the point they could defy logic, but no matter what, they would help extend one's lifespan a bit, so it would be definitely no issue for one to live another three or five years. Moreover, these items were extremely nutritious and could help heal hidden injuries, which was equivalent to extend one's lifespan.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan had taken the position of housewives and stood at one side, cheerfully counting the Origin Crystals, which gained Hu Niu's disdain. She secretly thought, these two silly girls, what was so nice about looking at Origin Crystals? The right thing to do was to stick to Ling Han instead.

After a day of business, Ling Han had gathered a terrifying amount of 100,000 Origin Crystals. This was a wealth that would make anyone envious. It was guaranteed that even the Imperial Family of the Rain Country would only be able to produce a mere scrap of this amount at most.

The auction was also going to take place soon. In another two days, it would begin.

And on the other side, with the help and urging from three Earth Grade alchemists, Ling Han's verification as an Earth Grade alchemist would also be completed soon. At most, in another five

days, the proof of his identity would be delivered.

Ling Han was very satisfied and began to consider where he would go next.

The Star Brilliance Palace Hall was only a stopover point for him on his way out of the Desolate North, so he naturally would not be staying for too long here. But since he was here, he decided to simply verify his status as an Earth Grade alchemist, which would ensure that he would be able to do as he liked.

Now that these two issues were almost solved, his next stop would naturally have to be moved up the schedule.

The Winter Moon Sect was planning to open their doors to recruit disciples?

After Ling Han heard this news from others, he considered for a moment, then decided to head to the Winter Moon Sect.

Firstly, he had to investigate his mother's whereabouts. Secondly, he wanted to collect some interest there. For such a great sect like the Winter Moon Sect, they definitely had their own herb farm, and Ling Han planned to empty this farm to enrich the space inside the Black Tower.

Who asked this sect to capture his mom and injure his dad? If he didn't avenge himself, could he even be considered human?

When he had enough ability, he would naturally kill Ao Feng and end this enmity completely.

En, they'd go to the Winter Moon Sect!

However, he would have to hide his identity. Otherwise, based on the fact that he and Feng Yan were deadly enemies, even if that elite of the Spiritual Infant Tier did not kill him because he was an Earth Grade alchemist, he would still chase Ling Han out. By then, how was he to take over the Winter Moon Sect's herb farm?

Because they had spent all their Origin Crystals and the Martial

Arts Tea Party was already over, quite a number of young men and women did not wait for the auction to begin, but instead chose to set out directly and head towards the Winter Moon Sect. However, out of those who set out, some travelled a certain distance ahead but then actually came back. They had deliberately returned to see Ling Han and told him a piece of news.

...On their way, they had seen a few young people coming over from the Northern Region.

Could they be just like Bao Xin Ran?

Ling Han thanked them, and these people once again set out on their journey. Ling Han could not help but feel rueful. He had only killed Bao Xin Ran because of a conflict of interests brought about by the latter, and had not considered much else. However, he had actually gained the hearts of so many as a result.

Otherwise, they had already left, so why would they deliberately come back and tell him the news?

But based on the fact that they managed to leave freely, he knew that the newcomers should be different from Bao Xin Ran. Otherwise, these people would have robbed and killed them rather than let them leave.

Could it be that they were here to participate in the auction?

This was quite possible. After all, there was at least one Blue Scale Demonic Fruit on auction, so it was natural that those nearby would be attracted to come.

At midnight, that feeling of being observed came back again.

Ling Han knew that it was definitely Luo Ji Feng. It was not the first time that old guy had done this kind of thing, but with Ling Han's Eye of Truth, he had absolutely nowhere he could hide.

However, Ling Han soon looked solemn, because Luo Ji Feng actually wore a veil to conceal his face today.

Since he was trying to hide himself, he was obviously planning to do something bad.

Obviously, Ling Han had not given him the chance to act previously, which finally made that old guy lose patience—he had decided to make a move even if Ling Han was at the inn.

Ling Han hesitated. Should he immediately retreat into the Black Tower?

If he retreated into the Black Power, then he would definitely be safe, but he still had one chance for the Black Tower to instill power into him. And he was currently in the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, so as soon as he strengthened his foundations so firmly that they could not be shaken, he would attempt to break through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

If he still did not use this chance, that would mean a complete waste of it.

Most importantly, the Black Tower instilling power into him was a process of strengthening and refining his body, which was extremely beneficial to him. Thus, he definitely could not miss this opportunity.

Small Tower had also said that the later the chance for instilling power was used, the better it would be. He was now in the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier—there was no later than this.

With the instillation of power, he would be able to possess the cultivation of the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and with his monstrous battle prowess, the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier would be enough for him to battle an opponent of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. Although the higher one's cultivation, the more difficult it would be to battle an opponent at a stronger cultivation level, but there should be no problems against an opponent in the second or third layer of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

After all, Luo Ji Feng was only in the third layer of the Spiritual

Pedestal Tier.

If he fully used the Mysterious Three Thousand, he should be able to have the chance to kill him in a single strike.

After he made his decision, Ling Han immediately moved quietly. He left the inn and headed towards a dark location at a far-off area.

With Luo Ji Feng's senses and divine sense of someone in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, he naturally discovered instantly Ling Han's departure. The old man could not help but be slightly stunned. How could there be such a coincidence? He had just planned to kill Ling Han even if it meant revealing his identity when this brat actually left the inn alone, and created an opportunity for him?

Odd.

However, there was no way he could resist such temptation. In his mind, there was no way someone at merely the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier could become a threat to him.

The old man leaped forth and flew after Ling Han, closely tailing him. He planned to catch up to him in a remoter location and kill him. Firstly, this would solve a problem for Cheng Fei Jun, and secondly, he still had to draw out the Strange Fire. Otherwise, there was no possibility that Cheng Fei Jun would be able to take over the position of leader in the Star Brilliance Palace Hall.

After only over ten-plus minutes did Ling Han suddenly stop. It was precisely at the plaza that had hosted the Martial Arts Tea Party the day before. There was still a large number of sunshades that had yet to be dismantled here and it was dark all around, as if it was a ghost town.

This was indeed a good place to commit murder, it was very spacious!

Chapter 306: Battling the Spiritual Pedestal Tier

"Old man, come on out. You've followed me for so long, you should come out to take a breath of fresh air," Ling Han said, turning around.

Luo Ji Feng continued to hide himself and did not step out at the first instance. He thought that Ling Han was trying to bluff. How could a brat in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier possibly discover his tracks?

"So you can be shameless as long as there's a cloth covering your face?" Ling Han snorted.

Luo Ji Feng was instantly furious, and at the same time, he realized that Ling Han had discovered him. He strode out and asked, "Brat, how did you discover me?"

"I guessed," Ling Han said simply. "I vaguely felt that there was a bum beetle behind me, and thinking it over, someone who would be following behind another in the middle of the night like this must be a shameful old wretch."

Luo Ji Feng fumed angrily because of his invectives and shouted in fury, "How dare you!"

"Hehe, I am usually very daring," Ling Han smiled.

Luo Ji Feng instantly calmed down. An elite of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier naturally could not lose composure like this. He crossed his arms behind his back and asked, "Brat, you probably don't know my cultivation level yet, right? The Spiritual Pedestal Tier!" He did not wait for Ling Han to make a guess and simply revealed the answer. "I heard that you dared to kill even a man in the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier! This has probably made you smug and conceited, and so you think that I'm also the same, right?"

You're wrong, wrong! Whether it is the Spiritual Pedestal or the Spiritual Ocean Tier, there's no way you can tell the difference between cultivation levels, and this is precisely going to be the reason for your death!

There are some people you can't offend, and once you do, your only fate would be death!"

Ling Han laughed loudly and said, "So it is an old wretch in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, sorry I didn't recognize you! I am indeed quite curious. Cheng Fei Jun is actually able to command an old wretch like you, so from the look of things, you don't have much to be proud of."

"Nonsense, Cheng Fei Jun is the one who has to obey my commands!" Luo Ji Feng immediately rebuked, but once the words left his mouth, he could not help but tense up and say sharply, "Damn you, you actually dared to trick me with words!"

Ling Han shrugged and said, "You're here to kill me anyways. Moreover, a battle between the Spiritual Pedestal Tier and the Gushing Spring Tier would definitely be a one-sided domination. I am someone who is definitely going to die, so what if I know some secrets? Old wretch, let me ask you, which party are you really from?"

Luo Ji Feng was dazed from listening to Ling Han's words. The first words that Ling Han had said were obviously supposed to be his lines, yet why had they come from Ling Han's mouth? Though this was a fact, it still made him feel extremely uncomfortable.

A man who was well aware that he was going to die could still remain so calm?

Yet when he heard Ling Han's last few words, the old man was once again enraged. This brat still dared to call him an old wretch?

"What is the point for a dead man to know so much?" he asked coldly. Being called 'old wretch' repeatedly by Ling Han made him

feel like he 'couldn't bear' to immediately kill Ling Han. He wanted to toy with the latter for a while before killing him slowly.

Ling Han laughed and said, "A wretch will be a wretch. Never listening to nice words, only brute strength works!"

"Damn you!" Luo Ji Feng humphed in anger. He really could not bear being repeatedly insulted as 'old wretch' by Ling Han, so he planned to first subdue this brat, then slowly torture him. At the same time, recovering the Strange Fire was quite a troublesome task—Cheng Fei Jun had to be at the scene as well, so he had better first subdue Ling Han.

"Small Tower!" Ling Han said lightly. Suddenly, a terrifying power gushed out of his Dantian and instantly circulated through his entire body.

First layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, second layer, third layer... his cultivation level spiked up sharply, and in a short while, reached the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

"Yi!" Luo Ji Feng was just about to make a move when he suddenly ceased all movement and said in an utterly astonished tone, "Impossible! Impossible! How can your aura instantly soar up to the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier!?"

From the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier to the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, that was practically a breach through two major Tiers; it was shocking to the point of being horrifying. Who could accept this?

"What is the point for a dead man to know so much?" Ling Han asked. This was exactly what Luo Ji Feng had said to him in reply before.

Luo Ji Feng had already regained his senses from his absolute astonishment earlier. He said, "So what if you are in the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier. There is still a gap of a major Tier, and to suppress you would be a complete piece of cake for me!

I definitely do not believe that in this tiny place like the Desolate North, there could be a seventeen-year-old in the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier who at the same time is also an Earth Grade alchemist. You must have taken some kind of alchemical pill which has temporarily raised your cultivation level.

You would only possess the strength through this kind of upgrade. It is impossible for your martial arts comprehension to have increased as well. You would at most be able to only express the battle prowess of the third or fourth layer."

In front of me, such battle prowess is practically trash!" he said disdainfully.

Ling Han's right hand moved and a sword appeared out of thin air—this was no ordinary iron sword, but the Demon Birth Sword!

Today, he was definitely not going to spare Luo Ji Feng.

"This, this, this, this, this, this, what kind of Spirit Tool is this?!" Luo Ji Feng's expression went through a dramatic change. Even if the martial intent in the Demon Birth Sword had not been restored, a Level Ten Spirit Tool was still a Level Ten Spirit Tool, after all. Merely one look at the patterns engraved on the body of the sword would arouse a powerful feeling of hopelessness, as if one was facing an ultimate elite standing at the apex of strength.

"Level Ten Spirit Tool, Demon Birth Sword," Ling Han said calmly. He did not hide anything this time round.

"Level Ten Spirit Tool! Level Ten Spirit Tool!" Luo Ji Feng mumbled, powerful greed instantly appearing on his face. "I understand, the basis for your confidence is this Demon Birth Sword! Hahahaha, a Level Ten Spirit Tool is indeed powerful, but you have no way to activate the martial intent within it, so at most, it would only be a threat to me due to how sharp it is!

I have to thank you for gifting me with such an ultimate treasure. Hahaha, only I deserve to have this Spirit Tool!"

"Is that so?" Ling Han extended his left hand, and with a mental command, weng, weng, weng, weng , veins appeared on his hand, shining with a colourful light.

Pu!

Luo Ji Feng instantly choked. This was martial intent, the genuine thing!

"How could this be, how could this be!?" He was instantly driven mad. If one used an alchemical pill to forcibly upgrade one's own cultivation level, that would only mean a strength upgrade. It was not possible for martial arts cultivation to be upgraded as well.

Could it be that Ling Han was really in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, yet he had only forcibly suppressed his cultivation level previously?

Yet, a seventeen-year-old Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artist who was also an Earth Grade alchemist... no matter how he looked at it, it was nonsense. How could there be such a monster in this world?

No matter how he dared to contemplate, he could never imagine that Ling Han's soul used to belong to an ultimate elite of the Heaven Tier who was the Alchemy Emperor. Thus, not just Earth Grade alchemist, he could even immediately transform into a Heaven Grade alchemist.

And as long as there was enough power, with his divine sense of the Heaven Tier, how could it be that he could not form martial arts intent?

Ling Han lightly shook the Demon Birth Sword. Weng , the precious sword shone, and two patterns gave off a faint light. This meant that he had managed to revive a portion of the martial intent in the Demon Birth Sword.

Even if it was only a little bit, how awesome was a Level Ten Spirit Tool? A terrifying might washed over him, instantly causing Luo Ji Feng's heart to tremble like crazy. His legs weakened so

much that he had almost fallen to his knees on the ground.

Previously, merely the decree of a Spiritual Infant Tier elite was enough to make Fu Yuan Sheng and the other two Spiritual Pedestal Tier elites only capable of resistance but unable to make a move. A Level Ten Spirit Tool was naturally even more awesome. Unfortunately, Ling Han was only able to activate two patterns after all. Moreover, they were only faintly shining, so the martial intent released from them was too limited. As a result, Luo Ji Feng still managed to keep a large part of his battle prowess.

"I shall accept such a precious sword as my own!" Luo Ji Feng was astonished, but at the same time, he was even more excited.

Chapter 307: Kill Just the Same

Luo Ji Feng was extremely astonished, because Ling Han was actually capable of reviving a Level Ten Spirit Tool. Though it was only a little bit, it was already enough of a shock. However, he also thought that if even Ling Han was capable of reviving a Level Ten Spirit Tool, then what about him?

If this Demon Birth Sword fell into his hands, it would definitely be able to express even more powerful might.

This was a Level Ten Spirit Tool!

"Hahahaha, I shall accept this kind of precious Tool as my own!" He laughed loudly and stretched out a large hand to grab Ling Han. A black cloud expanded and numerous skulls appeared within it. It was as if the door to hell had been opened and innumerable spirits of the dead had exited.

Ling Han suddenly understood, and exclaimed, "So you are from the Thousand Corpse Sect, no wonder your aura felt familiar!"

"What!?" Luo Ji Feng was flabbergasted. "How could you possibly know of the existence of our sect?"

"Nonsense, you've already used the secret arts of the Thousand Corpse Sect right in front of my face. If I still can't recognize it, then what is the use of having this pair of eyes?" Ling Han snorted.

Luo Ji Feng was extremely depressed. There had been no signs of the Thousand Corpse Sect for tens of thousands years. Moreover, in the last 10,000 years, their martial arts suffered a tremendous blow, leading to a lapse in their inheritance. There shouldn't be anyone who would be able to recognize the secret arts of the Thousand Corpse Sect in this era, yet how could this brat from out of nowhere recognize it with a single look?

"Brat, it seems that there are a lot of secrets you're hiding!" Very quickly, his eyes shone with a strange light. A seventeen-year-old

who was an Earth Grade alchemist and simultaneously in the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, this could no longer be described as merely a miracle. He even later took out a Level Ten Spirit Tool and even managed to recognize the secret arts of the Thousand Corpse Sect with a single look. He definitely had to be hiding a colossal secret.

His heart throbbed wildly. If he was able to capture Ling Han, who knows, it might be the greatest chance in his entire lifetime.

"Don't dream such wonderful fantasies. It's impossible," Ling Han shook his head.

"You know what I'm thinking?"

"Nonsense, just look at how you're practically salivating. How could it not be obvious what kind of devious ideas you're contemplating?" Ling Han said with a derisive snort.

Luo Ji Feng naturally had not lost so much composure that he was salivating. He gave a humph. At this moment, the surroundings were completely covered by his black Qi. One after another, skulls rolled over and over, making him feel very confident in himself.

"Brat, when I take you down, not only will I gain your fated opportunity, you will also be tortured incredibly at my hand. I can guarantee that you will be utterly miserable!"

Ling Han snorted, and sneered, "Just a damn eunuch who has no d*** between his legs? No wonder you have a catamite. Since you're cultivating the evil arts of the Thousand Corpse Sect, your body is like a mummy, so your d*** has naturally rotted and you can only sell your behind."

"You, you, you..." Luo Ji Feng felt as if his heart had been dealt a heavy blow. His face twisted and he suddenly gave an enraged roar, as if he was a ghost himself. Instantly, innumerable skulls appeared and pounced towards Ling Han.

This was his greatest pain. As a man, he had lost his d***, and now that Ling Han had exposed this fact right in front of his face, this instantly drove him to extraordinary depths of fury.

"Damn wretch, I have yet to call you to account for this. You almost made me blind!" Ling Han released a sharp whistle, and waved the Demon Birth Sword, using the sword technique of Mysterious Three Thousand.

Hong , seven hundred sword flashes moved at the same time. With the driving force of the Demon Birth Sword, every sword flash actually transformed into a black-armored knight formed from Demonic Qi that charged towards Luo Ji Feng in attack.

"F***!" Ling Han was instantly stunned. Each of these black-armored knights were at the ninth layer of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. Seven hundred of these black-armored knights moving at the same time, what kind of concept was that?

Even he himself had never imagined that the Mysterious Three Thousand combined with the Demon Birth Sword would actually create such a terrifying might! Of course, this was also because with the instillation of power from the Black Tower, his power had soared to the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

He had even deliberately kept one hundred sword flashes in reserve in order to spare Luo Ji Feng's life—he would not be able to interrogate him otherwise. But, who would have thought that the might of this strike was practically capable of defying logic?

Hong , seven hundred black-armored knights rushed past. Not only was the Corpse Qi that was all around completely dispersed, all the skulls were completely shattered as well. Luo Ji Feng had died without a whole body, leaving behind not even a single scrap.

Luo Ji Feng might not even be able to resist merely one black-armored knight of the ninth layer of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, what more when seven hundred of such powerful beings assaulted him at the same time.

"Ai!" Ling Han sighed. This was great, he had directly killed Luo Ji Feng, so all the trails were broken. His thoughts took a turn. "I'll go look for that scholar boy!"

He returned quickly; when he arrived at Luo Ji Feng's courtyard, he grabbed the scholar boy in a single move. He knocked the latter unconscious and stored him in the Black Tower. Then, he too flashed into the Black Tower and began his interrogation.

"I was forced, I was forced!" The scholar boy was scared half to death and filled with even more incomprehension and fear about the space inside the Black Tower.

No matter how Ling Han asked, he said he didn't know anything. He had only been taken in by Luo Ji Feng after the latter had come to the town. At first, he thought that he had met his benefactor, but the result was... he was also disgusted. As a result, he always used brute force, wanting to torture Luo Ji Feng, yet that only made the old wretch even more pleased.

Ling Han could only once again knock the scholar boy unconscious and toss him out of the Black Tower.

This trail was not broken yet, because Cheng Fei Jun was still alive.

He made the scholar boy ask Cheng Fei Jun over to Luo Ji Feng's courtyard. In order to make the scholar boy obey his commands, he simply stuffed an alchemical pill into the latter's mouth and forced him to swallow it. Ling Han lied and said that it was poison, and if the scholar boy was not given the antidote in three days, he would die.

The scholar boy was not the slightest bit doubtful. Because Luo Ji Feng had not returned all this while, he felt that it was very possible that the former had already been killed by Ling Han. When he thought that even such a terrifying person like Luo Ji Feng had been dealt with by Ling Han, how could he dare to resist?

Not long after, a sound arose from the doors to the courtyard, and the sounds of two pairs of footsteps approached.

"How could it be you!?" When Cheng Fei Jun saw Ling Han, he could not help but look extremely astonished. No matter whom he saw, it would not be as unacceptable to him as seeing Ling Han here.

Ling Han humphed and said, "I am the elder in charge of discipline. Why do you not kneel upon seeing me?"

Cheng Fei Jun was dazed by his bluff. After hesitating for a moment, he instantly looked vicious and said, "You're bluffing me! Where is Master Luo? Master Luo!" he exclaimed in shock.

"How troublesome!" Ling Han moved, and with a single palm strike, knocked him unconscious. Then, he turned his eyes towards the scholar boy.

"I'll do it myself," the scholar boy hurriedly said. He knocked himself into the wall, and with a tong , he fainted.

He really did know how to conduct himself.

Ling Han could not help but break into laughter and stored the two of them simultaneously into the Black Tower.

He returned to the inn and once again entered into the Black Tower. Then, he began to interrogate Cheng Fei Jun.

"Ling Han, you are really daring. Even if you are an Earth Grade alchemist, but to imprison another alchemist privately, this is still a heavy crime!" Cheng Fei Jun called out sternly once he awoke.

"When has even a dreg of the Thousand Corpse Sect become so arrogant?" Ling Han shook his head.

"What nonsense are you spouting, who's a dreg of the Thousand Corpse Sect?" Cheng Fei Jun's expression changed drastically, yet he turned about and asked Ling Han, "Speak less nonsense, and quickly let me go!"

"Now that you've entered into my space, you still want to leave?" Ling Han smiled calmly. His body rose up into midair, and with a casual wave of his hand, a large hill sprouted out of the ground, forming a change in their environment.

Pu!

Cheng Fei Jun instantly choked, his eyes fixed in a stare, as if he had become an idiot.

"This is an illusion, this is an illusion!" he mumbled to himself, his whole body trembling.

Pa!

Ling Han delivered a sharp slap, and the pain immediately made Cheng Fei Jun cry out in pain. This was definitely no illusion!

Chapter 308: The Thousand Corpse Sect's Plans

Cheng Fei Jun was struck awake by this smack, and the look he directed towards Ling Han was filled with terror.

Being able to soar in the skies physically... the Flower Blossom Tier!

The Flower Blossom Tier, someone who had transcended the mortal world and possessed power that could not be comprehended logically.

Thus, this had to be an old monster who had lived for a hundred or two hundred years. As a result, it was nothing odd that he possessed the power of the Flower Blossom Tier, nor was it strange that he had become an Earth Grade alchemist, because he had already reached such heights since who knows how many years ago.

For such an old monster to deliberately disguise himself as a young man, what were his intentions?

"You had best explain obediently!" Ling Han casually turned a hand and a force was exerted onto Cheng Fei Jun's body, causing such pain that he immediately exclaimed in agony. In this space, Ling Han was God.

Cheng Fei Jun was really quite stubborn. Unfortunately, within the Black Tower, any kind of unimaginable torture method could be immediately brought into reality, and soon enough, Cheng Fei Jun had a mental breakdown. This was practically trying to oppose the will of a God; how could he possibly win?

Ling Han actually had other means to obtain the information he wanted, and that was to directly search his soul. For him who had a sliver of the divine sense of the Heaven Tier—added with the fact that they were both in the Black Tower—it would be extremely

easy to accomplish this.

However, the process of searching one's soul would be similar to reading every single experience and the whole history of a man—unless it was so coincidental that the information he wanted would be immediately searched out. Since it was to flip through all the memories of another, he would have to go through his experiences as well, and seeing too much of another's experiences would definitely affect him as well. He might lose sight of which life was his, and which was Cheng Fei Jun's.

Thus, unless it was absolutely necessary, Ling Han did not want to use soul searching arts. Moreover, after the soul was searched, the person who had his soul searched would definitely die. This was because his soul had been drawn out of his body and flipped through bit by bit, so it would naturally be completely destroyed.

Of course, the most important reason that Ling Han did not want to view Cheng Fei Jun's whole life was to avoid dirtying his eyes. And there was no need to mention Luo Ji Feng; his world view could possibly be completely obliterated. He did not care much about whether Cheng Fei Jun would die or not; after all, even if he did not kill the latter now, he would kill him at a later time anyways.

For every question Ling Han asked, Cheng Fei Jun replied. Ling Han was naturally able to distinguish whether he was lying to him or not.

Strictly speaking, Cheng Fei Jun was not a member of the Thousand Corpse Sect, because he had never cultivated Corpse Qi.

About ten years ago, Cheng Fei Jun was merely an extremely talented newbie in the field of alchemy, but it was right at that time that he was found by a powerful elite of the Thousand Corpse Sect, who promised him a great reward and pulled him into the Thousand Corpse Sect.

After a trial period of three years, he had obtained ample trust

and received a considerable number of ancient pill formulae, and even obtained the personal notebook of an ancient great alchemist, which instantly caused his alchemical skills to sharply improve.

Before that, the Thousand Corpse Sect did not have him do anything specific, and only required him to improve his alchemical skills as much as possible to prepare for the "big business" in future. Improving his own alchemical skills was his pursuit in the first place, so Cheng Fei Jun would naturally not refuse. Thus, he began to walk farther and farther, as well as more and more successful on the path of alchemy.

About a year ago, the Thousand Corpse Sect gave him a Strange Fire, and paid an exorbitant price to help him fuse with it. It was also because of this that he was able to become a Black Grade high level alchemist when he was only in the Gushing Spring Tier, and he was just flourishing in the limelight.

And it was at this time that he received a mission from the Thousand Corpse Sect—when Long Yong Chang and the other two passed on, he was to take control of the Star Brilliance Palace Hall. After which, through the authority he possessed, he was to add Corpse Qi into the medicine that would enter into the Nine Nations of the Desolate North and transform all of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North into a land of the dead!

If one came into extended contact with Corpse Qi, a living person would slowly be transformed into a special kind of Corpse Soldier that would be able to devour other Corpse Soldiers in order to upgrade their own power. It was similar to raising insects 1 , and a Corpse King would emerge at the end!

With the huge numbers living in the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, this Corpse King could possibly be a Gold-Armored Corpse, or even a Second Tier Gold Armoured Corpse!

As for how to make Long Yong Chang and the other two die at the same time, the Thousand Corpse Sect would naturally send one

of their elites to accomplish this task, so there was no need for Cheng Fei Jun to worry about it. What he had to do was to transform the Nine Nations of the Desolate North into a land of the dead after he had taken over.

After understanding the whole story, Ling Han waved a hand and imprisoned Cheng Fei Jun. Anyways, now that he had entered the Black Tower, his life or death was merely a thought from Ling Han. He could possibly be useful in future, so Ling Han decided to simply imprison him first. He did the same to the scholar boy. At least, only when Ling Han left the Fallen Moon Gorge would he release the latter.

This Thousand Corpse Sect did not have much relation with Rong Huan Xuan.

It looked like there had been a split in the inheritance of this ancient great sect. Part of it was inherited by Rong Huan Xuan, whereas the other part was obtained by another. Moreover, this person was secretly developing it rapidly towards prosperity. He was so ambitious that he planned to kill the dozen hundred million people of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North and refine a Corpse King through this process.

This was really deranged!

Completely by accident, he actually unravelled such a great evil scheme. It was really a great coincidence and very fortunate.

Ling Han was also filled with a bit of lingering fear. Because if he had really walked off without a second thought, once Long Yong Chang and the other two Earth Grade alchemists died, it was only a matter of course for Cheng Fei Jun to rise up and take over.

...For a small place like the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, there was actually no need for three Earth Grade alchemists to stand by here. It was because the three of them had broken through here that they had remained here. In truth, when they had been assigned here, they were only Black Grade high level

alchemists.

Thus, there was absolutely no problem with the plans of the Thousand Corpse Sect. With Cheng Fei Jun's current reputation and power, if Ling Han did not step out, who would be able to compete?

And if this plan of the Thousand Corpse Sect was really put into action, there would practically be no chance for anyone to survive in all the Nine Nations of the Desolate North. Even with the protection of the new Rain Emperor and the Da Yuan King, how could Ling Dong Xing and the others possibly be spared?

Thus, Ling Han felt lingering fear. If something like that had really happened, even if he destroyed the Thousand Corpse Sect 10,000 times, what use was there?

He definitely had to destroy this Thousand Corpse Sect!

Otherwise, even if they failed this time, there would still be a next time and another after that, and he wouldn't be able to guard himself against it.

Family was Ling Han's reverse scale. He would definitely not allow anyone harm those close to him. So, Thousand Corpse Sect, you should continue to be buried in the dust of history.

However, the current Thousand Corpse Sect had already reached a massive size, and it was not only through bold words that he could successfully destroy them. Though Luo Ji Feng was in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, he did not have a high position in the Thousand Corpse Sect, and Cheng Fei Jun was completely unclear about the detailed power scale in the Thousand Corpse Sect.

If this sect had already been revived for a very, very long time, then it wouldn't be anything strange for them to have one or even a few ultimate elites of the Shattering Void Tier. After all, it was currently a booming era for the martial arts. Moreover, in history, the Thousand Corpse Sect had also possessed ultimate elites of the

Tenth Tier as well.

Ling Han scratched his head. All the demons and monsters had really appeared in this lifetime.

A day later, the auction was held as scheduled.

The Spirit Treasures Pavilion's status in the Fallen Moon Gorge was not something that could be compared to the Star Brilliance Palace Hall, but the former was similarly established in an extremely large building, which was constructed as a very traditional auction house. It had a total of five floors and was designed in a way that the middle part was empty.

This place could at most accommodate one thousand people at one time, so it couldn't really be considered small. Though Ling Han had not gotten his proof of identity as an Earth Grade alchemist, that was merely an issue of procedure. As a result, he enjoyed the highest level of treatment from the Spirit Treasures Pavilion, and possessed a private room on the fifth floor.

Long Yong Chang and the other two Big Bosses also arrived. From the look of things, the Blue Scale Demonic Fruit was also very attractive to them, so Ling Han considered whether he should discuss with them and ask them to allow him to have the Blue Scale Demonic Fruit.

But what caused Ling Han shock was the fact that there were actually other guests in the private room on the fifth floor!

He saw with his own eyes a woman who was completely hidden in a cloak enter into the room. Why was he so sure that it was a woman? When her body moved, that slender waist and plump behind, as well as her towering b***** were completely outlined.

Chapter 309: Ling Han of Two Lives

Afterwards, an ordinary-looking elder appeared and entered another private room.

The most important thing for the Spirit Treasures Pavilion to ensure was fair practice in their business. Thus, since these two people were able to enter a private room on the fifth floor, this obviously meant that they, or the party they represented, was at least not weaker than the status of an Earth Grade low level alchemist.

That elder was in the Flower Blossoming Tier!

Ling Han was a bit surprised. It was indeed quite impressive that the auction today would actually tempt a powerful elite of the Flower Blossoming Tier to come.

A stream of people continued to enter, and soon after, he heard a very distinctive voice.

"Fairy Chi, what a coincidence to see you again. We are really fated, so why don't we sit together?"

"Hehe, from the day before yesterday until now, we've met for a total of seventeen times!"

"There were actually as many as seventeen times? Then it really seems like we are definitely fated! Fairy Chi, looking at me today, don't you think I'm a little bit more perverted?"

"Get lost!"

Ling Han glanced out of the window and looked downwards, where he saw Gu Feng Hua who was currently chasing closely behind Chi Hua Lan. The pervert was grinning happily, eagerly following her.

The two of them also came upstairs, but they did not come to the fifth floor. Apparently, they were not yet qualified to sit in the

private rooms here. As for whether they were on the second, third, or fourth floor, Ling Han did not have so much free time that he would activate the Eye of Truth to determine that.

So the outsider martial artists the younger people of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North had seen were these two.

In the private room, Guang Yuan and the others felt this was really very much a novelty to them. Normally, they were not qualified to enter this kind of private rooms. Even if the decorations and adornments around them were nothing too shocking, they still toured around the room, touching this and that, feeling that everything was uncommon.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were girls, so they naturally had to take care of their image. As a result, they sat all prim and proper. Hu Niu, on the other hand, did not bother much and continued clinging to Ling Han's arms, laughing.

After a while, the auction finally began.

Ling Han was bored and leaned forward to sleep. Hu Niu, meanwhile, endlessly teased him with her little hands. The adult and child played joyously and harmoniously, making Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan who were watching feel extremely envious, wanting nothing more than to take Hu Niu's place.

The two girls exchanged a look and nodded simultaneously. They both felt that they could not be careless just because Hu Niu was little. This little girl could not be underestimated. Moreover, after another ten years, the little girl should have grown up into a big girl, and it would be too late by that time to guard against her.

Guard against fire, guard against thieves, and guard against Hu Niu.

"Everyone, the item that is going to be presented to all of you now is a treasure from the ancient era, and possesses a high symbolic significance!" the auctioneer said, spittle flying

everywhere. "And that is the alchemy furnace that was once used by the inventor of the Three Fire Guide, and acclaimed as the Alchemy Emperor, Grandmaster Ling, Ling Han."

Ling Han?

Guang Yuan, Liu Yu Tong, and the others all turned to look at Ling Han. They could naturally tell that this Ling Han was not their Ling Han, but the two of them actually shared the same name and they were both geniuses of alchemy, so they could not help but be astonished.

"Haha, I heard there is also a person here named Ling Han." A cold voice was suddenly heard from one of the private rooms. It was a very old voice. "He really doesn't know the immensity of heaven and earth, to actually dare to have the same name as the Alchemy Emperor."

"Haha, he really has overestimated his own abilities. It's nothing strange to have the same name, but how accomplished was Ling Han, Grandmaster Ling, 10,000 years ago? To have the same name as he, he really deserves to die!" This was the voice of a girl. She had a delicate voice, but it was filled with mockery.

Though he could not tell which private room these two voices came from, he could confirm they were from the fifth floor, which made Ling Han instantly recall the cloaked woman and the elite of the Flower Blossoming Tier he had seen earlier.

Ling Han did not know whether to laugh or to be angered, because both of them were he but one Ling Han was praised to the heavens whereas the other was stepped harshly and crushed underfoot, making him feel like he was trapped between laughter and tears.

It was really a coincidence, but who asked the two of them to have the same name?

Could it be that Small Tower had done it deliberately?

"Heng, I don't know who that Grandmaster Ling from 10,000 years ago is, but the current Ling Han is only seventeen years old, but is already an Earth Grade alchemist. No matter where, he would deserve the name of a genius of alchemy, and this is still called overestimating his own abilities?" Liu Yu Tong was displeased and immediately began to defend Ling Han.

Li Si Chan nodded as well and said, "I am an alchemist too, so I know a bit about that Grandmaster Ling from 10,000 years ago. That Grandmaster became an Earth Grade low level alchemist only when he was thirty. After that, he became an Earth Grade mid level alchemist ten years later, Earth Grade high level twenty years later, and then became a Heaven Grade alchemist thirty years after that. He's also the youngest Heaven Grade alchemist in history. After that, he broke through the limitation of Heaven Grade fifty years later, and was respectfully acclaimed as the Alchemy Emperor."

These words were factual, without the slightest bit of exaggeration. It was recorded as such in the ancient records. But when put together with the words that Liu Yu Tong had said previously, it was more than obvious. 10,000 year ago, Ling Han had only become an Earth Grade alchemist when he was thirty years old, but what about the current Ling Han? Seventeen years old!

Putting aside how his future accomplishment would be like, but merely comparing his current accomplishment, that was definitely slightly superior to the Ling Han of that generation.

Thus, the elder and the girl in the two private rooms were instantly silenced. Who asked Ling Han to be indeed much younger than that Ling Han?

Yet Ling Han smiled in spite of himself and shook his head. He had all the memories of his last lifetime, which meant that he was standing on the foundations that had accumulated in his last life and continuing to advance from there, so he was naturally going to

exceed his previous lifetime. How could these two lifetimes be put together and compared?

Still, he was a bit curious. Though the Ling Han of his last life had been acclaimed as the Alchemy Emperor, he had already "died" for so many years, why would these two people still be so reverent about him? Most alchemists knew that these two Ling Han shared the same name, but none of them actually came out to rebuke Ling Han.

How baffling, and moreover, there were two of them!

"Hehe, please do not hurt the peace amongst you, esteemed guests. Let us come back to auctioning off this alchemy furnace. Previously, I've said, this is the alchemy furnace that was once used by the ancient Grandmaster Ling Han, and the materials used to construct it are excellent. Unfortunately, it is already damaged. Thus, it can only be taken as an ornament and a token of remembrance." The auctioneer hurriedly soothed the atmosphere.

He paused, then continued, "Something that the ancient Grandmaster Ling has once used is very meaningful. Thus, we can of course not sell it cheaply, or it would be very disrespectful to Grandmaster Ling. Thus, the starting price for this alchemy furnace is... 1,000 Origin Crystals!"

"2,000!"

"3,000!"

"5,000!"

His words had just fallen, and already there were bidders placing their bids. Listening to the voices, it was Long Yong Chang and the other two Big Bosses of alchemy.

That was true, the name of the ancient Ling Han was too well-reputed. The things that he had once used were like totems, a pillar of mental support, and possessed a high symbolic significance for the alchemists of the current time period.

Within only a while, the price had soared to 10,000, and it was still rising. Very quickly, the price had broken through the high boundary of 50,000.

Ling Han was astonished. Could it be that Long Yong Chang and the others had come for the alchemy furnace he had used before? To be honest, that alchemy furnace was indeed something good. It was forged from Purple Moon and Stars Iron, so its heat conduction and pressure resistance was indeed great. Still, it was already damaged, so it could not possibly be used again for pill concoction, and from the looks of it, it was extremely heavily damaged. Even if one would recycle the materials used to make this alchemy furnace, there would not be much left.

Thus, the actual value of this alchemy furnace would be around 10,000 Origin Crystals, but the current bid had already exceeded that sum by a few times.

Chapter 310: Fierce Competition

This was merely an alchemy furnace that Ling Han had once used before, and now the price of this alchemy furnace that only had symbolic value was still soaring. Soon, it had broken through the high limit of 10,000 Origin Crystals, but none of the three Big Bosses of alchemy had any intention to give up, and were still continuing to add their bids. It seemed as if they would not give up unless they had emptied all their savings.

"These three alchemists are truly in love with the Grandmaster Ling Han from 10,000 years ago!" Guang Yuan exclaimed ruefully.

"That's right. It's already over 10,000 Origin Crystals. How many times has this price exceeded its real values?" Zhu Wu Jiu nodded as well.

Ling Han's expressions instantly turned dark. He did not need this kind of true love.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan thought that Ling Han was unhappy because he could not compare to the Ling Han from 10,000 years ago, and hurriedly comforted him. Hu Niu was more direct. She gave him a kiss on his cheek and giggled.

However, Long Yong Chang and the others did not have any intention to give up. The bid soared up to 200,000, and was getting closer and closer to 300,000, making everyone dumbstruck. They were dumbfounded by, firstly, the determination of these three alchemists, and secondly, by how wealthy alchemists were.

300,000 Origin Crystals, what kind of concept was that!

Even for these three Big Bosses of alchemy, 300,000 Origin Crystals should be a serious expense. After all, they usually only concocted Black Grade alchemical pills, and Black Grade alchemical pills were usually sold for silver and gold.

Moreover, these three alchemists had to be in the process of

trying to break through to become Earth Grade mid level alchemists. Every time they failed the attempt, what kind of astronomical price would they have to pay for the ingredients they had used? These ingredients definitely had to be bought with Origin Crystals.

Thus, it was indeed impressive that these three alchemists managed to save 300,000 Origin Crystals, but they had probably reached their limits.

Indeed, after the bid had reached 30,000, the three Big Bosses of alchemy were obviously lacking in confidence. Finally, the price was set at 332,853 Origin Crystals. Why were there scraps? That was because Long Yong Chang and his companions had really given it their all, and taken out all the Origin Crystals they had on them.

The highest bid had been placed by Li Si Yuan. He could not help but look happy. He could finally get hold of the alchemy furnace that was once used by the Alchemy Emperor. This was a totem, and a symbol of significance!

"Is there anyone interested in bidding?" the auctioneer asked. He was extremely shocked that the bid reached such a high level, but at the same time, it was reasonable to him.

His shock was because this was merely a damaged alchemy furnace, but who asked it to be once used by the Alchemy Emperor? In the eyes of his fans, not just 300,000, even 1,000,000 was worth it.

"400,000!" It was at this moment that a young, melodic female voice was heard. She placed her bid very calmly, but it gave everyone a shock.

That was 400,000 Origin Crystals, not 400,000 gold and silver coins!

Ling Han had heard it very clearly. This girl was precisely one of

the two people that had mocked him just now. He had been curious previously, since these two people admired the he from 10,000 years ago, why did they not even say one word when the auction was ongoing? So it seemed that they were confident of the outcome, and directly played a direct kill.

True, after so much bidding, she was naturally aware of the limits of Long Yong Chang and the others, thus the first bid she placed was a direct kill, and she would be able to save as much money as possible.

"500,000!" Another voice was heard. This one was rough and old. It was precisely the voice of the other person who had mocked Ling Han previously, the elder.

"600,000!" The girl increased her bid without hesitation, as if this 600,000 was merely paper money.

"700,000!" The elder did not cower at all.

"900,000!" This time, it was Long Yong Chang's voice. The three Big Bosses of alchemy must have combined forces and pooled their respective Origin Crystals.

"1,000,000," the girl and the elder spoke up at the same time.

"1,500,000!" The girl paused a while, and directly called out an astronomical price. It seemed like she was an impatient character, and did not want to add the bid bit by bit like before anymore.

"2,000,000!" The elder was unafraid as well.

These were two super rich people!

At the beginning, who would have thought that the real competitors for this alchemy furnace would be the two of them?

Putting aside their identities, merely the fact that they could take out 2,000,000 Origin Crystals was enough to qualify them to sit in a private room on the fifth floor. For the Spirit Treasures Pavilion which was a business establishment, anyone with enough money

would be their dad.

Ling Han could not help but be rueful, and mumbled, "I have used a considerable number of alchemy furnaces by now, so should I consider selling them off as well?"

This caused Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan to laugh. They thought that he was laughing at himself; there was no way that they would be able to figure out that the two Ling Han were actually one and the same.

After the price had reached such a high level, even Long Yong Chang and his companions could only become observers. They felt that it was really a pity. That was an alchemy furnace that had once been used by the Alchemy Emperor, and if it could be displayed in the Star Brilliance Palace Hall, that would definitely make this place into the Holy Land for all alchemists!

...Yet they did not know that as long as Ling Han once again reached the apex in future, this place, as the important location that Ling Han had broken through to Earth Grade alchemist, would definitely become the Holy Land for alchemists.

"300,000, Two Stars Origin Crystals." The girl once again placed a bid, and it instantly gave everyone a scare.

In theory, if the grade of Origin Crystals was raised, their value would be tenfold, but in truth, no one would be willing to spend high grade Origin Crystals like money.

Just put it this way. If the same amount of One Star Origin Crystals would allow one to successfully break through in three years' time, then using the same amount of Two Star Origin Crystals would only take one year.

That was right, time was the most important factor!

Especially for those martial artists who were below the Flower Blossom Tier, they only had a lifespan of merely a hundred years. Thus, the earlier and the younger they broke through to the

Spiritual Pedestal Tier, the more time they would have to attempt breaking through to the Flower Blossom Tier. Once they managed to break through, they would be able to cast off their mortal body.

One Star Origin Crystals were made by the Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artists, and were extremely helpful to the cultivation of anyone in the Body Refining, the Element Gathering, the Gushing Spring and the Spiritual Ocean Tier as they were able to supply enough Origin Power. However, for those in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, the effects of One Star Origin Crystals would be greatly discounted, and only Two Star Origin Crystals would have enough effect.

And for those in the Flower Blossom Tier, aside from the fact that One Star Origin Crystals could be spent like money, they were complete trash.

Thus, the higher the grade of Origin Crystals, not only the better the effects, but also the more the purposes. There were some extremely valuable Spirit Medicines that not only needed to be purchased with Origin Crystals, they might even need Four Star, Five Star, or even Six Star Origin Crystals!

Thus, the true value of 300,000 Two Star Origin Crystals far exceeded the value of 300,000 One Star Origin Crystals.

"400,000, Two Star Origin Crystals!" the elder was similarly calm.

Everyone was so shocked that their eyeballs looked ready to pop out of their heads; what kind of concept was 400,000 Two Star Origin Crystals? That would need 40,000 Spiritual Pedestal Tier martial artists to work on concocting them for a whole year! In the whole north region, were there even 10,000 Spiritual Pedestal Tier martial artists?

Most importantly, these two seemed to be completely calm, and looked like they didn't care at all.

Were they really from the north region?

Ling Han was also very curious. He could still understand if Long Yong Chang and his companions fought over the alchemy furnace. But what were these two fighting over it for? He could not help but activate the Eye of Truth and gazed at them. At first, he found the elder, but the latter immediately sensed his presence. He gave a heavy humph, and a sound wave spread out.

"Wu!" Ling Han gave a muffled groan, and instantly a stream of blood gushed out from his right eye. He actually experienced much suffering from this one blow.

The Flower Blossom Tier, that was power that exceeded the mortal realm.

"Ling Han!" Liu Yu Tong and the others were extremely shocked. Why did he suddenly cry tears of blood out of the blue like this?

Only Hu Niu fixed a stare at a particular direction in her alertness. It was precisely where that elder was. Obviously, the little girl was not glaring arbitrarily. Instead, she had really sensed something out of the ordinary, and immediately looked vicious.

Chapter 311: An Astonishing Discovery

Ling Han held onto Hu Niu. That old man was too powerful. Even though Hu Niu possessed a terrifying speed, in front of someone in the Flower Blossoming Tier, that would have no effect at all. The latter would only need to release a burst of aura, and that would be enough to kill the little girl with a shock wave.

"It's all right," he said with a shake of his head as he withdrew a towel and wiped off the blood. He could feel that his right eye was still faintly aching, but once the Indestructible Heaven Scroll circulated, the pain instantly disappeared. In a mere few minutes, his right eye was completely back to normal.

It really deserved the name of the Indestructible Heaven Scroll. Even such a fragile body part like the eye could be easily healed.

And after a few minutes of tug-of-war, this alchemy furnace was successfully purchased by that cloaked woman—she paid an astronomical price reaching 1,000,000 Two Star Origin Crystals.

'With so many Origin Crystals, as long as I have broken through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier, I would probably be able to break through to the ninth layer in less than a month, right?' Ling Han thought. Origin Crystals were used to create an environment filled with Origin Power, which would speed up the rate of cultivation.

He once again focused his sight to find that cloaked woman. In a short while, he had found her, but what surprised him was that the moment he found that girl, she had coincidentally stood up. Her hands were holding onto the alchemy furnace that she had just successfully purchased, and she was actually planning to leave.

In other words, she was purposely here for this alchemy furnace, and now that the alchemy furnace was in her possession, she was naturally going to leave.

With the Eye of Truth, Ling Han glimpsed a sliver of her face,

and could not help but be slightly awed.

This girl was really beautiful, not one bit less beautiful than Chi Hua Lan.

However, whether it was this girl, or that elder, they weren't alchemists at all. Ling Han did not sense one bit of the air that an alchemist should possess on them—there was no need to doubt this. As the Alchemy Emperor, if Ling Han was still unable to distinguish whether someone was an alchemist or not, then he should really buy a piece of tofu and kill himself with it.

Two people who were obviously not alchemists, yet were willing to spend over 1,000,000 Two Star Origin Crystals for a damaged alchemy furnace. Why would that be?

Previously, they were indeed very reverent towards his previous self, but if one claimed that they would pay such a high price for the sake of their admiration, it was a little incomprehensible.

The cloaked woman left, and the elder in the Flower Blossoming Tier left as well. The two of them shared the same target, which was this alchemy furnace. Now that the alchemy furnace had found its home, they would naturally have no reason to continue staying here.

It was really baffling.

He could only take them as real rich people who were truly in love with the Ling Han of his last lifetime.

After such a major climax, the subsequent proceedings of the auction not only made Ling Han sleepy, there were also a considerable number who had begun to doze off in their seats downstairs. Some were even snoring.

"Cough, cough!" the auctioneer hurriedly adjusted the sequence of the auction and took out a considerably valuable item in advance for the auction, finally managing to make the environment lively again.

After another half an hour, an item on auction attracted Ling Han's interest.

It was a sculpture that looked like a scorpion. It was completely black all over, and exuded a cold metallic light.

"According to the studies of a few of our experienced appraisers, this should be an antique from 5,000 or 6,000 years ago. There are some ancient words on it, which are slightly different from what we have today. After deciphering, they can roughly be interpreted as: Scorpio Palace Hall, life and death, reincarnation for 10,000 lifetimes," the auctioneer said. "This should be a token, a key, and it should be able to open... the Scorpio Palace Hall of one of the Twelve Heaven Mystery Realms!"

Shua , his words had just fallen when everyone stood up. All of them looked very excited.

The Twelve Heaven Mystery Realms were one of the Great Mystery Realms that were rumored to exist. They would open every hundred years, and one would be rendered dumbstruck by the abundant Spiritual Qi within them. A day of cultivation within could be equal to ten days or even a hundred days of cultivation in the outside world.

As a result, innumerable Spiritual Herbs grew within. Since the Mystery Realm only opened every hundred years, not only were they mature enough, but due to the Spiritual Qi within, the quality of these Spiritual Herbs was shockingly high.

But this was not the point. The point was that the Twelve Heaven Mystery Realms had twelve mysterious palace halls, and according to the rumor, the greatest treasures of the Mystery Realm were hidden within—cultivation techniques, Spirit Tools, martial arts techniques, alchemical pills.

There was once a fortunate man who entered into the Aries Palace Hall. As a result, his fame soared greatly. In the end, he became an ultimate elite of the Heaven Tier, and furthermore was

one of those extremely strong types. If it wasn't for the fact that the era he was born in was greatly suppressed by the natural environment which meant that no one in the Shattering Void Tier could emerge, his accomplishment would definitely not be limited to the Heaven Tier, but he'd enter the Shattering Void Tier, or even successfully shatter the void to become a God.

And to enter the twelve palace halls, the corresponding key was needed.

"Hehe, according to the examination of our Pavilion, this possibly should be the key that will open up the Scorpio Palace Hall... but it could also be counterfeit. Our Pavilion cannot be certain of this, because there are some things on this sculpture that we can't confirm," the auctioneer returned back to the main topic.

Instantly, a considerable number looked disappointed. When they thought about it, it was logical.

If this key was real, then why would it be auctioned off here? If it was taken to the central region, there would be many more rich people there, and it would be able to get a really high price there.

Even so, there were still many who were interested in this sculpture. What if it just so happened to be real?

"Ling Han, do you think it's real or fake?" Liu Yu Tong could not help but ask curiously.

Ling Han focused his eyes and the Eye of Truth was activated. The form of the sculpture instantly peeled apart in front of his gaze. Every layer disappeared, and when he saw something hidden deep within the sculpture, he could not help but grin because it was actually a piece of paper on which these words were written: "You've fallen for the trick, this is a fake, hahaha."

But when he saw the name written last, he could not help but tremble, and wore an expression of disbelief.

"What is it?" Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan asked quickly.

"It's nothing!" Ling Han waved his hand, but everyone could see something was off with his expression.

How could Ling Han not lose his composure? Because that was a drawing of a naked woman!

He recognized with a single glance that penmanship; it was his showy disciple, Jiang Yue Feng!

He was not the slightest bit surprised that Jiang Yue Feng would do something so pointless, but what shocked him was that this stone sculpture was rumored to be something from 5,000 or 6,000 years ago.

...But Jiang Yue Feng should have been a character from 10,000 years ago.

Even if Jiang Yue Feng broke through to the Shattering Void Tier, he would only have a lifespan of over a thousand years, so how could he have managed to survive until 5,000 or 6,000 years ago? Unless... Jiang Yue Feng advanced yet another step and stepped into the realm of gods, becoming a god himself.

Though he didn't know whether gods could be immortal, but just look at Asura Demon Emperor. He had been suppressed for several tens of thousands years and split into nine, but was still alive and kicking, wasn't he?

Jiang Yue Feng was still alive? Had he become a God?

Then what about his three other disciples, were they all still alive? One had to know that the reason that Ling Han had been willing to take the four of them as disciples was either because they had astonishing talent in alchemy or logic-defying comprehension abilities in martial arts. Otherwise, for someone like him who had his whole focus on alchemy, how would he have eked out so much time to teach disciples?

If Jiang Yue Feng was able to become a God, then his other three disciples should also be qualified.

Then wouldn't he still have a chance to reunite with his four disciples?

Haha, he really wanted to see the expressions on their faces at that time. It would definitely be very interesting.

Chapter 312: Consecutive Successes

Since he now knew that this sculpture was a fake, it was naturally impossible for Ling Han to still place a bid for it. Moreover, he only had about 100,000 Origin Crystals, which he still had to save to bid for the Blue Scale Demonic Fruit.

He took this chance to pay a visit to Long Yong Chang and the others to discuss the matter of a loan. After seeing the formidable wealth of the cloaked woman and the Flower Blossom Tier elder, he really did not think that 100,000 Origin Crystals was in any way a huge sum of money.

When they heard the reason why Ling Han needed the Blue Scale Demonic Fruit, the three Big Bosses of alchemy all gladly agreed to lend their Origin Crystals to Ling Han. Of all virtues, filial piety was the most important, and they only made a request in exchange and that was that they wanted to observe when Ling Han concocted the Restore Spirit Pill.

That was an Earth Grade mid level alchemical pill!

Ling Han naturally did not mind, so he agreed very easily. The deal was thus made, to everyone's delight and satisfaction.

The sculpture gained popularity from a large group of people. Even Gu Feng Hua and Chi Hua Lan made their respective bids for it. There were also some others who should be disciples of the various Great Clans of the north region, which increased the bidding price drastically. In the end, it was purchased by a man called 'Xu Wen Tong'.

At first, the bidders were anonymous, but these visitors from the north region seemed to be very familiar with one another. When they placed a bid, they would not forget to either threaten or challenge their rivals. As a result, many had their identities exposed.

This Xu Wen Tong came from the Heaven Origin Sect, and seemed to have quite the reputation among the young generation.

Consecutively, another Spirit Tool appeared.

This was a saber, and there were nine hoops on the saber's blade. Upon closer examination, they were not real hoops, but rather intricate patterns, though they looked very much like hoops from their appearance.

"Nine Hoop Heaven Hero Blade!" The auctioneer began to introduce the auction item. "This saber is a Level Five Spirit Tool, but its merit lies in the fact that these nine hoops are the seals of this Spirit Tool. One can unseal them one by one, and unseal what is equivalent to only a Level Three Spirit Tool. Moreover, with every subsequent hoop unsealed, the power of this Spirit Tool would become slightly stronger, and eventually reach Level Five."

When they heard these words, everyone exclaimed in surprise.

In the first place, a Level Five Spirit Tool was extraordinary, and the power it possessed was enough to oppose a Spiritual Pedestal Tier warrior. But the problem was, how could the martial intent of a Spiritual Pedestal Tier elite be activated by one who was merely in the Spiritual Ocean Tier or the Gushing Spring Tier?

As a result, if a high level Spirit Tool was in the hands of a martial artist at a lower cultivation level, it would not even be able to display power that corresponded to the martial artist's lower cultivation level.

But this Spirit Tool was a different case.

Its power would be slowly unsealed and released in distributed segments, which meant that this Spirit Tool, in the hands of a Gushing Spring Tier, Spiritual Ocean Tier, or Spiritual Pedestal Tier martial artist would still be able to display its greatest ability. This was really too powerful.

"The starting price is 5,000!" the auctioneer announced.

Instantly, the sounds of bids were heard throughout, but soon enough, the martial artists from the Desolate North were out of the race. Even if they pooled all their Origin Crystals together, they did not have much remaining. After all, they had just been ruthlessly looted by Ling Han previously, who had earned a total sum of 100,000 from them.

Yet Gu Feng Hua and the others began to compete. Each of them placed their bids calmly. A mere dozen thousand Origin Crystals was not enough for them to consider seriously.

Ling Han swept his eyes over and saw Can Ye look both envious and disappointed. He could not help but laugh, and called out loudly, "100,000!"

Instantly, a complete silence descended.

The price now had only just reached 70,000, and you all of a sudden came up with the bid of 100,000. That was absolutely going against the rules. How could anyone increase the bid like that?

Meanwhile, Can Ye looked at Ling Han with gratitude. He was naturally aware that Ling Han was a sword user, then the reason why he had joined the bidding for this treasured saber could only be because Ling Han wanted to let him have it. Can Ye was not very good at expressing himself, so he could only express his gratitude and thanks through his gaze.

"Oh no, our Little Ye Ye would only be able to pledge himself in marriage in exchange," Guang Yuan said wonderingly.

Shua , Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan both struck at the same time, delivering a slash towards Guang Yuan. Sword Qi danced and Guang Yuan hurriedly leaped away from his original position. The wooden chair he had been sitting in was instantly rended into pieces by the barrage of Sword Qi.

Pa!

He managed to escape Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan's strikes, but

he forgot there was one other person—Hu Niu!

The little girl delivered a sharp kick to his behind. She was too fast—Guang Yuan was unable to put up his defenses in time. Instantly, the kick landed solidly on his behind, and he crashed into a wall from the resulting impact.

He turned around and saw Hu Niu was currently baring her eerily sharp little white teeth at him. He could not help but feel his heart tremble—because Hu Niu was too tiny, and the places that her eyes passed over made him shudder with fear.

"Don't shoot your mouth off!" both Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan said in rebuke.

Guang Yuan's face twitched. He naturally did not take these two big girls seriously at all, but he could not possibly guard against Hu Niu. Moreover, she was getting more and more powerful every day, and had no comprehension of any kind of rules. Sneak attacks were common for her, so she was definitely a little maleficent star. There was no way that he wanted to offend her.

He had only focused on teasing Can Ye, and had no idea that he had offended Liu Yu Tong and the other two girls. He was really asking for trouble.

Ling Han merely laughed loudly. Meanwhile, after a short period of shock downstairs, the bidding had begun once again, and gradually, the price had reached the huge sum of 150,000. Though that was still very far from the bidding price for the alchemy furnace previously, but now that those two super rich people had left, this sum had just about reached everyone's limit.

"200,000!" Ling Han once again raised the bid. He already had enough confidence to successfully get hold of this Spirit Tool, as well as the Blue Scale Demonic Fruit that was coming up later, together with the Origin Crystals from Long Yong Chang and the others. There should be no problem at all.

Once this call of 200,000 was heard, the surroundings fell into a complete silence instantly.

"Yi, why does this voice sound a bit familiar?" Gu Feng Hua said to himself. "What pervert is that? He's so rich. I need to befriend and cling to him."

Though this guy was only speaking to himself, his voice was not low at all, so a large number of people heard him clearly.

Ling Han placed his hand on his forehead. He really did not want to be friends with this pervert at all at this moment.

Thankfully, this Nine Hoop Saber eventually fell into Ling Han's possession. With his status, he could completely first collect his goods, then pay the Origin Crystals owed within a few days. The status of an Earth Grade alchemist was still extremely useful.

After another few small items had been placed on auction, the auction was nearing its end as well. It was finally the turn of the Blue Scale Demonic Fruit to be on stage, and this indeed gave rise to another climax.

"...The starting price is 10,000!" The auctioneer babbled a bit before finally starting the bidding.

"11,000!"

"12,000!"

The sounds of bidding rose one after another. Ling Han, meanwhile, sat calmly, making no movements. Now was not yet the time to make a bid, and the price was still far from the final price of the Blue Scale Demonic Fruit. Thus, there was absolutely no need to rush things.

However, when the price had reached 50,000, the bidding slowed down a bit. After all, the wealth of the alchemists here was mostly in the form of gold and silver. They were only able to produce so many Origin Crystals through pooling the finances of a considerable number of them.

"60,000!" The young martial artists from the north region also began to make their bids.

They were the real competitors for the higher priced auction items today. The young people of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North would only buy some small toys, but in the competition for the real treasures, they were absolutely unable to compete with the martial artists from the north region.

The price very quickly spiked up to 150,000 and had once again reached the limit for the martial artists of the north region.

"200,000." Ling Han gave the final word.

"F**, why is it him again?"

"This voice sounds quite young; where did he get so many Origin Crystals?"

"Yi, don't you guys know? He's Ling Han, Grandmaster Ling, an Earth Grade alchemist that has just broken through!"

"No way, he's the one?"

"I heard he's only seventeen years old!"

"This is practically a joke!"

"Hehe. Don't you guys know that Grandmaster Ling excels both in martial arts and alchemy? Previously, he had even killed a Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artist named Bao Xin Ran at the Martial Arts Tea Party."

Hiss, at this moment, the young people of the north region all looked astonished.

Chapter 313: Help Me Eradicate the Winter Moon Sect

In the eyes of the martial artists from the north region, the Nine Nations of the Desolate North were the most backward area of the whole land. They didn't even have real elites of the Flower Blossom Tier. Only with the support of the power of the nation did they somehow forcibly possess such powerful existences.

Below the Flower Blossom Tier, all were considered powerless mortals.

In such a remote and desolate place, the residents were naturally all country bumpkins and boors in their eyes.

Yet now there actually appeared a seventeen-year-old Grandmaster alchemist here; moreover, this person was actually capable of killing Bao Xin Ran!

Though Bao Xin Ran could not be considered a truly strong person among the younger generation of the north region, he should not have been someone that could be killed by a country bumpkin from the Desolate North, either. Moreover, this country bumpkin was only seventeen years old, and had also reached Earth Grade in terms of alchemy.

Did such a genius really exist in this world?

"Hahahaha, so this is Grandmaster Ling. I shall go and see him tomorrow, and ask Grandmaster Ling for some guidance!" someone immediately spoke up.

"I too shall shamelessly pay a visit to Grandmaster Ling."

"So shall I!"

The young people of the north region exclaimed respectively. Without bothering to ask for Ling Han's agreement, they declared their intentions to themselves.

Since even the last precious auction item had found its owner, everyone naturally left the venue. Anyhow, there were many valuable and precious treasures in this world, and this was only an ordinary auction. No one would be too depressed due to not having been able to obtain whatever item they had had their eye on.

After Ling Han had gotten hold of the Blue Scale Demonic Fruit and the Nine Hoop Heaven Hero Blade, he settled the tab with the Origin Crystals he had gathered. As for the debt that he owed Long Yong Chang and the others, he'd just have to slowly pay it back. Anyways, he still had a large amount of hundred-year ginsengs and ganoderma. He could just sell these off to Gu Feng Hua and the others. They had no shortage of money.

Initially, he had been a bit displeased by the way they talked to themselves and decided so arbitrarily that they would pay him a visit on the morrow. However, now that these people had become his clients, his attitude naturally took a change as well. He was glad to play around with them as long as he could settle his debt first.

According to Long Yong Chang, his proof of identity as an Earth Grade alchemist would also be coming within these few days, and it was already quite near to his time of departure.

Ling Han tossed the Nine Hoop Heaven Hero Blade to Can Ye, and after he returned to the inn, he entered into the Black Tower and began to dig out ginsengs and ganoderma. Actually, there were still a lot of other Spirit Herbs, but for non-alchemists, ginseng and ganoderma were still the best. Simply eating them whole would be the best nutrition.

On the second day, Gu Feng Hua and the others indeed came over.

"Grandmaster Ling, I really had never imagined that you would actually be this young!" Every person that came would say something along these lines, so much that Ling Han felt as if his ears were going to become calloused just from hearing so much of

the same thing.

"Hahaha, Ling Han. You are indeed a pervert, and have some of the bearing that I used to have years ago!" Gu Feng Hua's voice was heard. When he entered, he hugged Ling Han enthusiastically, but then he immediately neared Ling Han's ear and whispered, "However, Fairy Chi is mine, and if you dare to snatch her, be cautious that I will pour Itchy Powder in your underpants and make you have to scratch your d*** every day."

This guy released him, his expression still very cordial and warm.

Ling Han threw a disdainful glance at him and said, "You pay more attention to your lover than your friends."

"This is called 'look out for yourself, or heaven and earth will combine to destroy you'! For the sake of my happiness, I can only sacrifice you," Gu Feng Hua declared without any reservations.

"Brother Ling!" Chi Hua Lan arrived gracefully and raised her clasped hands in Ling Han's direction. "I have not yet repaid you for saving me within the Devil Sky Mystery Realm and had not thought that you have already become an Earth Grade alchemist. Hua Lan really does not know whether there will come a day when I can still repay you."

"Of course there will!" Gu Feng Hua interrupted. "He and I are good friends, what is his is mine, and what is mine is still mine! So you can pledge yourself and marry me, which is equivalent to having repaid the favor you owe Ling Han."

Chi Hua Lan acted as if she had not heard anything and smiled beautifully at Ling Han, then said, "Brother Ling, would you be interested to be a guest at the Purple Star Sect?"

She was a disciple of the Purple Star Sect—if she actually managed to pull Ling Han into her sect, the value of this credit would be indescribable!

And the sect would spare no expense to help Ling Han ascend to

the Flower Blossom Tier. Together with the use of Spiritual Medicines to help extend his lifespan, it would be no issue for Ling Han to live for another 400 years.

That was a whole 400 years; if he continued to concoct Earth Grade alchemical pills, how many more Flower Blossom Tier elites would appear in the Purple Star Sect?

It could be claimed that a high grade alchemist could completely change the destiny of a sect.

"Yo, isn't Little Sister Chi always known for being incorruptible? Why are you now using a honey trap?" Amongst a bout of light laughter, a graceful girl came over, her movements flirtatious. She had a lithe figure which was extremely shapely. Her protruding, full breasts could make anyone's mouth water. How could anyone have such a fantastic figure?

Her lips were red like fire, and her hair was like a waterfall over her shoulders. This was an extremely beautiful woman. Moreover, she was filled with a fiery bearing, like a fresh flower that was blooming furiously, tempting others to come forward and attempt to pluck her and not care even if they would be wounded by her thorns as a result.

"Lin Xiang Qin!" Chi Hua Lan said softly.

This fiery beauty was Lin Xiang Qin. She lowered into a bow in Ling Han's direction. Her head lowered slightly, revealing a small section of her jade-like nape. It was fair and delicate like silk and akin to jade, extraordinarily beautiful.

She was really a master at using her own advantages. She had obviously not made any particularly explicit movements, yet it was enough to make one fully experience her graceful bearing, and induce an itch as well as irresistible desire in one's heart.

"Utmost Imperial Sect's Lin Xiang Qin hereby pays respects to Grandmaster Ling!"

She did not immediately stand back up, and seemed to be waiting for Ling Han to come forward and help her up. She believed that there would be no man would be willing to pass up such an opportunity, would they?

Around them, Gu Feng Hua, Xu Wen Tong, and the others all looked captivated. In terms of looks, it was difficult to decide who was superior between her and Chi Hua Lan, but if one were to talk about bearing and grace, she was much more superior to Chi Hua Lan.

Of course, there would definitely be many men who preferred the pure type like Chi Hua Lan. Though Lin Xiang Qin was only twenty years old, her fiery grace was already filled with the style of a seductive elder sister.

Chi Hua Lan was straightforward in her speech—she instantly gave a humph, and declared, "Vixen."

Yet Ling Han did not stretch out his hands to help her up. He had already seen many attempts to tempt him with beauty in his last life. At that time, he had reached the peak of both alchemy and martial arts at the same time, and the beauties that were willing to throw themselves into his arms had even higher status. There was no lack of even fairies that were in the Deity Transformation Tier.

Lin Xiang Qin invited a snub, and could not help but be surprised. However, Ling Han had already turned around and walked off, so she could only stand back up on her own. She rubbed her nose and a defiant expression appeared on her face.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan exchanged a smile. Their Ling Han was not a shallow person. To get his attention, the mere temptation of beauty would not work. Only sincerity would be able to earn his trust.

"Grandmaster Ling, would you like to come and look around Utmost Imperial Sect with me?" Lin Xiang Qin immediately caught up to him and asked delicately, not wanting to admit defeat.

"All right, as long as you agree to one condition of mine," Ling Han said calmly.

Hearing such words, everyone could not help but look slightly disdainful. He had put up an act for so long, but in the end, he was only a lecher. But who asked this perverted lecher to be an Earth Grade alchemist, especially one with a boundless future ahead of him? It was indeed possible that he was worthy of such an extreme beauty like Lin Xiang Qin.

Lin Xiang Qin smirked coldly in her heart, and her despise for Ling Han rose. However, the smile on her face was unchanged, and she asked daintily, "May I know what condition that Grandmaster Ling has?"

"Help me eradicate the Winter Moon Sect!"

Chapter 314: Selling Ginseng and Discussing about Heroes

Help me eradicate the Winter Moon Sect.

When these words were spoken, everyone fell silent in fear.

What kind of existence was the Winter Moon Sect? Though there were many parties that could be claimed "sects" in the north region, there were only five great sects that were publicly acknowledged as the strongest, and were collectively known as the Five Sects of the north region. The Winter Moon Sect was one of these five sects.

Though the Utmost Imperial Sect and Heaven Origin Sect were both very awesome, in terms of absolute power, none of them could compare to the Winter Moon Sect. Perhaps only if the three of them combined their forces would they be able to stand on an equal footing with the Winter Moon Sect. They would at least require three times the ability of the Winter Moon Sect to be able to defeat a sect that used a defensive strategy and possessed a Mountain Protection Great Array like the latter.

In other words, it would require at least ten such parties like the Utmost Imperial Sect to work together to make this possible. Furthermore, in this process, even if the battle was won, a heavy price would be paid.

For the sake of an Earth Grade alchemist, what party would be willing to do such a thing?

"Hohoho, Grandmaster Ling is a real joker." Everyone laughed dryly. All of a sudden, their arrogance was gone and they had become well-behaved, because no matter how wild they were, they would not dare to say such words like eradicate the Winter Moon Sect.

Whether they were sincere words from the heart, or a mere joke.

Ling Han was uncaring. The enmity between him and Feng Yan was something that everyone in the Rain Country knew about, and a little investigation would make it known. Thus, no matter how ferocious his words, everyone would only think that it was because of Feng Yan, but would not know that this enmity also involved the previous generation.

If someone ordinary said such words, even if the Winter Moon Sect did not make a move personally, there would still be a large number of other parties planning to kill Ling Han in order to curry favor with the Winter Moon Sect. However, this here was an Earth Grade alchemist, and had status akin to someone in the Flower Blossom Tier, so how could any ordinary party dare to make a move?

Even for such a powerful party like the Winter Moon Sect, they would still have to worry a bit about the Alchemist Society behind Ling Han. At the very most, they would only beat up Ling Han so that he would not dare to speak so thoughtlessly. Yet they would definitely not dare to kill Ling Han publicly.

Of course, it was a different story whatever they did covertly.

One word was enough to subdue these extremely arrogant young geniuses. As Ling Han continued to ask about the present situation in the north region, he had Zhu Wu Jiu take out another basket of ginseng and ganoderma.

These young people had no shortage of money. It was apparent from the fact that they were able to toss out 100,000 Origin Crystals so easily during the auction.

Indeed, even if these geniuses came from large sects and had seen and eaten hundred-year-old ginsengs and ganoderma before, when they saw such a large bundle of nutritious tonics filling a basket as if they were mere bok choy, they felt the corners of their mouths twitch violently.

"Ai, compared to Grandmaster Ling, we are indeed frogs at the

bottom of a well!"

"There are so many hundred-year-old ginsengs and ganoderma; Grandmaster Ling must have gotten hold of an ancient herb garden."

"It couldn't possibly be an ancient herb garden. All the medicinal herbs here are hundred years old."

"That's true. Most likely, there was a party that had sowed a large number of ginseng and ganoderma a hundred years ago, but for an unknown reason, it was destroyed. However, their herb garden was not destroyed. Instead, the plants grew well, and were discovered by Grandmaster Ling eventually."

Everyone was rueful. This really was luck. Moreover, with the status of an Earth Grade alchemist as support, who would be willing to fall out with Ling Han over just "a bit" of hundred-year-old ginseng and ganoderma?

Ling Han could earn as much money as he liked without worrying that he would be targeted. After all, to the large parties, this was definitely only a minor expense.

Zhu Wu Jiu was in charge of collecting money, whereas Ling Han chatted casually with them and scouted out the situation in the north region. After all, what was mentioned in the books was at least from over ten years, or even tens of years ago.

There was no change in the power structure of the north region. The strongest were still five parties, that were collectively known as One Valley and Four Sects: the Blood Flame Valley, the Winter Moon Sect, the Shinra Sect, the Beast Emperor Sect, and the Half Moon Sect. The Blood Flame Valley was the only party that did not name themselves as a sect, but they were recognized as the most powerful existence in the north region. According to rumors, it was possible that a super elite of the Deity Transformation Tier could arise within their ranks, and they would really dominate and sweep away all others in the north region then.

Though the world had four regions and one prefecture, it was not easy to come and go from one to another. Each had a moat that separated them from the other areas, and it was rumored that this was left behind from a great battle in ancient times. The higher one's ability, the more difficult it would be to cross this gulf.

It was precisely because of this that though the north region only had Spiritual Infant Tier elites on standby, they still did not have to worry about being invaded by the elites from the other regions.

"If we're talking about geniuses of the younger generation, we should definitely mention Zuo Yu Da of the Blood Flame Valley. He's only twenty-three years old but has already broken through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier!" Xu Wen Tong said, his expression envious.

In the Heaven Origin Sect, he was also one of the strongest of the younger generation, yet was only at the fourth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier at present. He was still very far from the peak of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, not to mention breaking through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. This step was unbearably difficult.

The higher one's cultivation level, the more difficult it would be to break through to the next Tier. There was previously a genius who broke through to the Flower Blossom Tier at thirty-two years old and became the youngest Flower Blossom Tier elite in history. Yet he spent 122 years to break through to the Spiritual Infant Tier from the Flower Blossom Tier. In the end, he died when he was in the Spiritual Infant Tier, and didn't even manage to break through to the Deity Transformation Tier, invoking sighs from everyone.

"He's even more of a pervert than I am," Gu Feng Hua mumbled to himself from one side.

"Zuo Yu Da," Ling Han murmured as he took note of this name. A twenty-two-year-old Spiritual Pedestal Tier elite was indeed shocking. As far as he was aware, even the Sword Emperor and the Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden had not been so awesome at the

beginning.

He surmised that it had to be because the environment had changed, which had made it easier for the people of today to cultivate.

"There's also a freak in the Beast Emperor Sect called Lu Yang, twenty-four years old, and similarly in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. Furthermore, the Beast Emperor Sect has a culture of rearing demonic beasts as pets. The combined forces of one person and a beast would mean a further upgrade to battle prowess." Lin Xiang Qin too mentioned another genius.

"There is no particularly bright new star in the Shinra Sect, on the other hand. However, they have a set of triplets. Though they are still in the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, when the three of them join forces, they are capable of killing off an opponent in the early stage of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, so they shouldn't be underestimated, either," Chi Hua Lan said.

"Among the young geniuses of the Half Moon Sect, there is a girl who is rumored to be as beautiful as a flower. Even Zuo Yu Da fell in love with her at first sight. He had his master make an offer of marriage, yet was coldly refused," Xu Wen Tong said with a laugh.

"I heard about that too. That girl's name is Zhu Xuan Er, she is only twenty-two years old but has similarly broken through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, which is really something admirable." Lin Xiang Qin nodded. She felt an endless envy. They were both women, but why did the other exceed her by such a large margin?

"Not only that; her beauty is also incredibly shocking. I have seen her lift a corner of her veil to take a sip of water. Though only a bit of her chin was revealed, it was enough to make me infatuated and want nothing more but to die for her sake," someone added, an obsessed expression on his face.

Those who had never seen Zhu Xuan Er before were astonished. She was able to make a young genius infatuated to such an extent;

that Zhu Xuan Er really possessed a lot of charm, didn't she? Moreover, she had not even shown her face, and only a glimpse of her chin was enough to make someone so captivated?

Inconceivable.

"I heard it as well. According to rumors, a genius from the middle state came over here for training and accidentally encountered Zhu Xuan Er. On the spot, he thought she was a celestial maiden, and even went to the Half Moon Sect to ask for her hand in marriage, saying that he wanted to take Zhu Xuan Er back to the middle state. Just guess, which party of the middle state did that young genius come from?" another said, seeming like a bit of a show off.

Without waiting for the others to guess, he directly revealed the answer to the riddle. "The Heaven's Sword Sect!"

Chapter 315: You Have A Lot of Hope

Heaven's Sword Sect!

It was as if these three words possessed a magic of their own, filling the young men and women here with a sense of deep respect; they all wore expressions of endless yearning on their faces.

"Close to 10,000 years ago, a great calamity happened in our world, and it was the seniors and leaders of such ultra powerful parties like the Heaven's Sword Sect, the Absolute Saber Sect, and the Cloud Phoenix Sect that fought a furious battle which finally brought an end to the great calamity, and led to the many generations of peace we have now."

"Furthermore, the Heaven's Sword Sect has an ultra elite of the Shattering Void Tier among their ranks, so they're practically a living masterpiece of martial arts."

"If it was me, needless to say, I would immediately eagerly race over."

"Haha, if you cut off what you have between your legs and do something extreme to your face, you will have a good chance."

"Get lost!"

Everyone broke out into raucous laughter, yet they all had an indescribable yearning for the Heaven's Sword Sect. This was a real Holy Land of martial arts, and possessed an immortal inheritance. Perhaps one day there would appear an ultimate existence who could successfully shatter the void and enter into the ranks of Gods.

"So in the end, did Zhu Xuan Er go to the middle state?" Liu Yu Tong could not help but ask, filled with curiosity.

"No," the person who had heard the gossip said. "It's said that Zhu Xuan Er is extremely filial. Her master went mad a few years

ago when cultivating, and she has sworn that she would definitely help her master recover. Whoever manages to do so, she'll give them no matter how many resources for cultivation they desire, or even marry him. However, according to the words of an amazing healer, only a Heaven Grade alchemical pill can heal that kind of injury to a person's Dao! As a result, our fairy here ultimately did not choose to go to the middle state, and who knows which bastard she would ultimately end up with."

When he spoke the last few words, he was already gritting his teeth, as if he could already see the goddess of his dreams being embraced by some damn man. His heart ached at the thought.

Shua , all of a sudden, everyone's eyes fixed upon Ling Han.

"What are you all looking at me like that for?" Ling Han asked very innocently.

"If anyone in the north region is capable of becoming a Heaven Grade alchemist, that would definitely be you." Gu Feng Hua laughed loudly. "You're such a pervert that it is only a matter of time for you to become a Heaven Grade alchemist. At that time, you'd be able to carry the beauty home! Let's have a chat, can you give me one of Fairy Zhu's underpants?"

Peng, peng, peng, peng . Without waiting for Ling Han to speak, the pervert had already been surrounded by more than ten people who admired Zhu Xuan Er and instantly beaten so much that he didn't even look human anymore.

"Yes, that's Fairy Zhu we're talking about here!" Liu Yu Tong said with a very jealous air.

"Heng!" Li Si Chan was the same as well.

Only Hu Niu was completely uncaring and thought inside her head, 'Ling Han is Niu's; a bunch of silly big girls.'

Ling Han merely smiled calmly. In his last life, what kind of beauty had he not seen? Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden was

even acclaimed as the most beautiful woman in history, and he was still unmoved. Only, when she asked him to concoct an alchemical pill for her, he had Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden tell him her real name.

And he had no idea what was the woman's problem... It was as if asking her for her name was like killing her, and afterwards, she would frequently come visit, and without saying much, she would simply take alchemical pills from him as she liked. It was as if she thought herself his master.

If he wanted to stop her and battled her... that was merely asking for torture.

The reason why Ling Han had so wanted to break through to the Shattering Void Tier was because he had had enough of being "bullied" by Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden, and wanted to turn the tables and become the Boss. And the result was great. Not too long after, he was killed by the Black Tower.

If Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden had entered the realm of Gods, she would probably be beautiful enough to make one flustered, wouldn't she?

All of a sudden, he was a bit nostalgic about Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden, as well as Sword Emperor, and also Setting Sun Saber Emperor. Had these guys actually died long ago, or had they broken through to the realm of Gods? Theoretically, since even Jiang Fei Yue had possibly entered the ranks of Gods, there should be even less of a problem for these guys.

"Thinking so much that you're entranced?" Liu Yu Tong was jealous and could not help but pinch Ling Han's waist. Yet when she saw that Li Si Chan had pinched the other side of Ling Han's face in a very well coordinated movement, she could not help but let out a laugh.

Yet Ling Han asked, "Then what about the Winter Moon Sect? Do they have any particularly shocking geniuses?"

"In the case of the Winter Moon Sect, the Seven Sons of the Ao Clan should be the strongest," Lin Xiang Qin said after some consideration.

"Ao Feng's seventh son?" Ling Han asked.

"No, Ao Feng has seven sons that are all geniuses, and are collectively known as the Seven Sons of the Ao Clan," Xu Wen Tong explained. "These seven people are all at the peak of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and every single one of them could very possibly break through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier at any time."

A dragon had nine sons, and indeed, each one was different. Ao Yang Ming was only in the Element Gathering Tier, but his brothers were already about to break through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. Perhaps there were some that were even more pitiful and still stuck in the Body Refining Tier.

Ling Han rubbed his chin and asked, "Who are these seven people?"

Gu Feng Hua shook his head and said, "Ao Feng has too many illegitimate children; who could remember all of them? Those seven are the most outstanding of the bunch, and are thus separately named as Ao Eldest, Ao Second, Ao Third, all the way to Ao Seventh."

This... Ling Han felt a cold sweat gather on his body. He had too many children, outsiders couldn't even clearly remember their names anymore.

If he crippled these seven people, Ao Feng would probably be heartbroken, wouldn't he?

When he remembered the pain that Ling Dong Xing had suffered, Ling Han could not help but gnash his teeth with hatred. Ao Feng definitely had to be left as the last one to be killed, so as to allow him to have a taste of the kind of agony that bored into one's heart before he died.

His idea was very successful, and he managed to sell off a large amount of hundred-year-old ginsengs and ganoderma, which helped him earn a crazy sum of close to 400,000 Origin Crystals. One had to understand, even with so many people from the Nine Nations of the Desolate North, they had only managed to spend just over 100,000 Origin Crystals, but there were only more than ten people here, yet they had managed to buy close to 400,000 Origin Crystals' worth of ginsengs and ganoderma, which proved how wealthy these people from the north region were.

If one was to compare himself to another, he'd just die from ire.

Everyone chatted with one another, updating each other on their present situation, and soon left afterwards. Ling Han too made a trip to the Star Brilliance Palace Hall, and paid off the Origin Crystals that he had borrowed from Long Yong Chang and the others. He had initially thought that if there was not enough, he'd use the Seven Turns Break Crisis Pill to cover the remaining amount, but did not think that the people of the north region would be so impressive.

After Cheng Fei Jun had disappeared for two days, it had finally attracted the attention of the Star Brilliance Palace Hall and they sent out people to search for this young Grandmaster alchemist, but how could they possibly find him? In the beginning, there were some who suspected that his disappearance was connected to Ling Han, but it was soon clearly found out that Cheng Fei Jun had been called out by Luo Ji Feng's scholar boy.

Yet now, not only Cheng Fei Jun had disappeared, even Luo Ji Feng and his scholar boy had vanished as well. Thus, it was naturally not related to Ling Han.

Ling Han decided to add fuel to the fire and reveal the fact that Luo Ji Feng was a disciple of the Thousand Corpse Sect, which would make the world vigilant against this evil sect. The Thousand Corpse Sect could even do something like destroying the Desolate North, so it was not impossible that they would think of destroying

the whole Northern region, or even the whole world.

He had Guang Yuan, Zhu Wu Jiu, and the others spread out the rumors. As long as they carelessly mentioned a word about it at places like tea houses and inns, this kind of rumor would definitely quickly spread throughout the world as if it had grown wings.

Indeed, it was only a few days, and the gossip about the Thousand Corpse Sect had spread throughout the small town—about how terrifying this party was, and about how they planned to turn the whole world into a corpse land.

...In the process of spreading gossip, the rumor would only be added upon, and thus, the Thousand Corpse Sect was described as more and more evil as the gossip continued to spread. They were practically ***** by all.

However, Ling Han thought that this was a very good thing. There was indeed a need to increase the sense of vigilance against the Thousand Corpse Sect. This party was really too evil.

Chapter 316: Reappearance of the Cloaked Woman

After another few days, Ling Han had finally obtained his proof of identity as an Earth Grade alchemist. In this way, no matter which angle you looked at it from, he was still an authentic, 100% genuine Earth Grade alchemist.

"We should set out." Ling Han snapped his fingers and led the others out of the Fallen Moon Gorge, heading towards the Winter Moon Sect.

The wide horizons of the north region soon stretched out beautifully in front of them. As there was a high mountain that separated the two areas, the truth was that there was a very clear difference in climate of both areas.

The Desolate North was very dry and cold, but the north region was very humid and warm. There were large stretches of tall trees growing here that had large, fat leaves. It was nothing like the Desolate North, where the majority of greenery was the type with needle-shaped leaves that could withstand extreme cold.

However, the Spiritual Qi here was obviously much denser.

"The last time I came here, it was seventeen years ago," Guang Yuan could not help but say wistfully. In the depths of his eyes, there was a barely noticeable pain and fury.

"Big Brother Guang, the conditions for cultivation here are obviously better than in the Rain Country. Why had you returned?" Liu Yu Tong asked curiously. Because of Ling Han, she couldn't possibly address Guang Yuan as senior.

Guang Yuan sighed and said, "It is too difficult to establish yourself in the north region!" He shook his head. "It's true that the Spiritual Qi here is indeed much denser, but without a supply of alchemical pills, what would be the point of merely having dense

Spiritual Qi? There are too many martial artists in the north region, even Spiritual Ocean Tier elites can't earn much money unless they are willing to obediently refine Origin Crystals. But if one were to refine Origin Crystals, how much time would be left for cultivation?"

"There are too many powerful people here. If one wants a better life, he'd at least have to be in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier."

Liu Yu Tong and the others instantly fell silent. That was the Spiritual Pedestal Tier they were talking about. In the Rain Country, that would be the most powerful parties like the Eight Great Clans. Who would leave behind such a comfortable lifestyle and run off to the north region to start fighting for their own place again?

Furthermore, in the Rain Country, the Spiritual Pedestal Tier was considered the farthest one could go on the path of martial arts, and one could not possibly advance a step further. Then what was the point of coming out to the north region? To get a Flower Blossom Tier cultivation technique? That was harder than climbing to the heavens.

This kind of cultivation technique would be heavily protected and hidden very well by every party, and they would not easily allow an outstanding immortal power to emerge from any other party.

Among the various sects of the north region, the Winter Moon Sect was the one closest to the Nine Nations of the Desolate North. However, though that was the case, once one left the Fallen Moon Gorge, one would still have to journey for about half a month's time to reach the Yu Long Mountains, where the Winter Moon Sect was located.

The Yu Long Mountains were a very large mountain range. From north to south, they stretched out for over 10,000 miles, whereas from east to west, they extended for over 2,000 miles. In the north

region, they were considered one of the largest mountain ranges. The mountains were a source of various Spiritual Herbs, and also contained a large number of valuable demonic beasts that had great value as medicinal ingredients.

And such a large, valuable mountain range was the private property of the Winter Moon Sect. If any martial artist not of their sect dared to enter the mountains and poach or steal the beasts and Spiritual Herbs within, the only fate would be death once caught. There was no exception. However, the Winter Moon Sect had set up protective arrays to defend this large mountain range, so weaker martial artists would have no way to sneak in, anyways.

Ling Han concocted a large number of Change Appearance Pills on the way. They were not meant to be swallowed, but rather rubbed on the face. They made it possible to change one's face as one desired, and when the effects of the medicine solidified, one would be able to become a completely different person.

However, the Change Appearance Pill could only last for ten days. Furthermore, one could not wash his face in these ten days. The effects of the pill would be gone when one comes into contact with water, and very soon, one's real appearance would be revealed.

Ling Han planned to enter the Winter Moon Sect. Whilst dealing heavy damage, he would steal some Spiritual Herbs and also probe for news about his mother. In the best-case scenario, he would be able to find the two remaining Spiritual Herbs he needed in the Winter Moon Sect and concoct the Restore Spirit Pill. Then, he would immediately return to Gray Cloud Town and heal his father's Spirit Base. After that, he would have Ling Dong Xing take alchemical pills like crazy, and push up his cultivation level rapidly.

Can Ye's features were very distinct, Guang Yuan was past the acceptable age, and Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan would definitely not want to pass ten days without washing their faces. As for Zhu

Wu Jiu, his talent seemed to be a bit poor, so the Winter Moon Sect might not take him. Thus, Ling Han decided to leave all of them outside—he would be moving alone.

Hu Niu was too little. No sect would take such a little girl. Who'd be willing to take care of a little girl? And if Hu Niu's cultivation was exposed, that would only create a huge commotion, and by that time, Feng Yan would definitely recognize him.

Moreover, since Hu Niu was here, how could Ling Han be far away.

As a result, the little girl stayed with the rest as well.

The carriage rocked and swayed all the way, and just when they were about to reach the Winter Moon Sect, they heard sounds of battle coming from a nearby location. Soon after, they saw a woman that was completely hidden under a cloak appear staggeringly in front of their carriage.

When she saw the slowly moving carriage, a sliver of delight appeared on her face. She took a great leap and entered the carriage from the back.

At this time, Ling Han was currently using the Change Appearance Pill to change his appearance, and was "dressing" himself in front of the mirror. Liu Yu Tong and the other two girls were naturally in the Black Tower, and when he suddenly saw a stranger appear in front of him, he could not help but be surprised.

He was shocked, and the woman was even more shocked.

A great Earth Grade alchemist was actually acting coyly in front of the mirror like this; what kind of pervert was this?

"Er, you seem to have misunderstood," Ling Han said weakly.

"Quiet!" she said fiercely. She stretched out a hand and grabbed onto Ling Han's neck, and said, "Cover for me, or I will strangle you to death!"

Ling Han was unafraid. The moment she made a move, he would be able to instantly enter the Black Tower. For someone who had the divine sense of the Heaven Tier like him, how could his reflexes be slower than one's in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier? He was only curious. Though there were indeed many women who wore cloaks, together with her voice, he was certain that he had not made a mistake. This was precisely that woman who had participated in the auction at the Fallen Moon Gorge a few days ago.

Why was she here? And who had she been fighting with moments ago?

"Hush!" The carriage suddenly stopped.

"Did you see a cloaked woman pass by?" An elderly voice was heard. It was that elder in the Flower Blossom Tier who had competed against the cloaked woman in the bidding at the auction at the Fallen Moon Gorge.

The cloaked woman's body gave an obvious tremble, yet she suppressed it by force. The divine sense of the Flower Blossom Tier was too powerful. He would be able to sense if there was the slightest bit of oddness.

Ling Han smiled calmly and activated his divine sense to surround the cloaked woman.

This was divine sense of the Heaven Tier. The cloaked woman did not notice it at all, and the same was true for that elder in the Flower Blossom Tier.

"No!" The coachman immediately shook his head.

The elder in the Flower Blossom Tier used divine sense to sweep a few times over the two carriages, but did not discover the aura he was familiar with. With a stomp of his foot, he had left with the winds, scaring the coachman so much that he knelt down and kowtowed.

Ling Han withdrew his divine sense and asked, "Why was he chasing after you?"

"Heng, why do you care about it so much?" the cloaked woman asked coldly.

"Is this really a good way to talk with your savior?" Ling Han laughed.

"I will repay this favor you've done me." The cloaked woman was still very cold.

Ling Han shrugged and said, "I don't even know what you look like or what your name is. Where do you want me to go to find you to repay me?"

The cloaked woman was very impatient and said, "When my injuries are healed, I will go and find you."

"How do I know whether you're simply speaking mere words or not?" Ling Han was unwilling to listen to any excuses. He was interested in both this cloaked woman and that elder in the Flower Blossom Tier. Why had they spent so much money just to buy an alchemy furnace that he had used before?

However, at this point in time, while he could not defeat that elder in the Flower Blossom Tier, the cloaked woman was currently heavily injured—this was a rare opportunity.

Chapter 317: Cold Spear Association

The cloaked woman gritted her teeth in anger, and could not help but say, "I am Mu Fei Yao. You can find me in the middle state."

Ling Han could not help but grin. 'This woman is so susceptible to provocation, she should not be too old.' He continued, "You conceal yourself like this, and you still want me to believe you?"

Mu Fei Yao stretched out a hand, about to remove her cloak, but then she immediately humphed and said, "I almost fell for your words, you cunning brat!" Her eyes tuned cold and she continued, "If you continue to provoke me, beware that I will snap your neck."

"That would depend on whether you have that ability or not!" Ling Han suddenly exploded, turned the tables and grabbed onto Mu Fei Yao's neck, holding her against the wall of the carriage.

Mu Fei Yao was flabbergasted. She was in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and even though she had suffered heavy injuries, resulting in her battle prowess dropping to the level of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, she was still stronger by an unknown number of times than someone in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier. Yet now, she was actually subdued by Ling Han in a single move. How could she believe that such a thing was possible?

Ling Han was astonishingly powerful, enough to compare to the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier!

"Which party are you from? Why did you insist on buying that alchemy furnace?" Ling Han asked. Spending so many Origin Crystals just to buy a damaged, useless alchemy furnace... he did not believe that it was because she had money to burn, what more when there were two people fighting over it.

"Why do I have to tell a liar like you?" Mu Fei Yao asked defiantly.

"Because if you don't tell me, I'm going to smack your behind," Ling Han said calmly.

Mu Fei Yao suddenly trembled in fear. She was a pure, untouched girl. If she actually had her behind smacked by a damn man, then what face would she have to continue living? Especially when this man had the same name as the Alchemy Emperor from 10,000 years ago. This was one of their great taboos.

However, she was even more unyielding. Her pride did not allow her to surrender. She gritted her teeth and said, "If you dare to commit an outrage, I will spare no expense and kill you at all costs!"

"Ha!" Ling Han was uncaring of her threat. "I've changed my mind now. I'm going to take you to someplace crowded, and smack your behind in front of everyone."

Mu Fei Yao inhaled sharply, and said in a trembling voice, "You can't, you can't!"

"You can test my limits," Ling Han said calmly.

Mu Fei Yao looked into Ling Han's eyes, and saw that though his eyes were clear, they were filled with a wild nature. Such a man did not do things with any misgivings or qualms in mind—he would definitely follow up on his words and do as he had said. It was definitely not wise to anger such a man.

"I am a disciple of the Cold 1 Spear Association." She conceded slightly. Anyway, this was no secret.

Ling Han was instantly startled. The Cold Spear Association?

The Cold Spear Association was a little secret that belonged to him and his four disciples. They had once thought of forming a party and had even come up with the name—the Cold Spear Association. Yet before they had even started officially forming it, Ling Han had already disappeared within the ancient historical site.

Could this Cold Spear Association have been formed by his four disciples after his 'death'? If that was the case, then it was very reasonable that Mu Fei Yao would bid for an alchemy furnace that he had once used before.

But why had that elder of the Flower Blossom Tier also competed for this alchemy furnace? Moreover, these two people had even come to blows, what was the reason for that? More likely than not, it had to be because of the alchemy furnace.

"Then that old man from before?" Ling Han asked.

"He is from the fake Cold Spear Association!" Mu Fei Yao's face was instantly filled with rage. "These conmen! We must eliminate all of them and not allow them to travel the world under Grandmaster Ling's name!"

Ling Han was even more astonished. There were actually two Cold Spear Associations?

Mu Fei Yao thought that he was a fake, and probably, he also thought the same about her. As a result, both sides fought vehemently over the alchemy furnace that he had once used. But the problem was that he had already 'died' for 10,000 years, so why were they still so reverent towards him and pay such a heavy price just for an alchemy furnace that he had once used?

Could it be that both Cold Spear Associations had been formed by his disciples? Had some kind of conflict arisen amongst them which caused resentment towards each other to rise, so much that they were willing to destroy the other?

Just from the fact that they were willing to spare no expense to buy the alchemy furnace he had once used, he knew that these two Cold Spear Associations were very reverent towards him. But if that was the case, why would they hate each other so much?

Ling Han felt a headache coming on. What had happened after his 'death' that caused a conflict to rise up among his disciples and

resulted in them forming two separate Cold Water Associations that were determined to obliterate the other?

However, these two sides were so fiercely opposing one another just because they thought the other side were a 'fake' Cold Spear Association, wanting nothing more but to destroy the other side. Then, if he 'confessed' to his identity of his last life, he would definitely be thought of as a super conman by both Cold Spear Associations and they would probably try to crush him into dust.

Just looking at Mu Fei Yao, she was definitely mad and could do anything incomprehensible. What qualms would she still have about his status as an Earth Grade alchemist?

"You can leave." Ling Han tossed Mu Fei Yao out of the carriage without the slightest intention to treat her tenderly just because she was a woman.

Mu Fei Yao tumbled heavily onto the ground, her face filled with disbelief. She was actually tossed out by Ling Han just like that? This despicable guy, don't let her encounter him again, or she would definitely make him suffer.

With even more questions in his head, Ling Han finally arrived at the Winter Moon Sect. At this time, there were still two days left before the Winter Moon Sect would open their doors to recruit disciples.

For a large sect like the Winter Moon Sect, their main doors were naturally closed at normal times. One usually left or entered the sect through the side doors. Only when there was a big event, such as paying respects to their ancestors, or if there was an extremely important, esteemed guest visiting, or the disciple recruitment that took place every five years, would the main doors be opened.

From far away, a pair of humongous stone doors had sealed off the pathway into the mountains, and there were two smaller side

doors at either side of it. One was for entry, while the other was for exit. There were restless streams of people around, which showed off the prosperity of the Winter Moon Sect.

Further up, there were clouds and mist curling around the mountains as if they were dragons.

Thought there was a large city near the Winter Moon Sect called Sea Breeze City, it was still some distance away after all. Moreover, the time for the main doors to be opened for disciple recruitment had already neared, so there were many who chose to set up tents at the foot of the mountains to wait for this day to come.

After all, this was a rare opportunity that would only come every five years.

The people here were not just the young people from the Desolate North, but also those that came from the whole north region. The Winter Moon Sect was one of the five greatest sects of the north region, so if one was able to enter into the sect, that was equivalent to having opened up the door to an incredibly bright future. As a result, it had naturally attracted uncountable numbers of young people with dreams.

Looking down from a higher position, that was definitely a wide stretch of black. Everywhere he looked, there were people. Just here, there were at least a few 100,000 people. At first, this number might seem like a lot, but one only had to think about the total number of residents of the north region to know that these few 100,000 was really quite normal.

...Merely the Nine Nations of the Desolate North had about a billion residents, and the Desolate North was only considered a tiny, backward corner of the north region.

Ling Han had the others stay behind in the Sea Breeze City, whereas he alone came to the foot of the mountains of the Winter Moon Sect.

There were already a lot of rumors about the test that would take place the day after tomorrow. The first was about the prize. Those that managed to get into the top ten would be richly rewarded, and the prize for the champion was a Spirit Tool called Thunder Battle Armor.

This Spirit Tool was rumored to have been passed down from ancient times, and in the long passage of history, it had suffered much damage. As a result, its might was no longer as great as it had been eons ago, but it was still an extremely valuable treasure.

"It's actually the Thunder Battle Armor!" Ling Han was extremely astonished.

Chapter 318: Thunder Battle Armor

It was nothing too surprising that the Winter Moon Sect was willing to use such a Spirit Tool as a prize, because the champion of the trials would definitely be heavily developed by the Winter Moon Sect and would later become one of the core members of the sect.

Thus, this Spirit Tool only made a huge circle, and ultimately would return to the hands of the Winter Moon Sect.

"It's actually the Thunder Battle Armor!" Ling Han was extremely surprised. This was not the first time he had heard of the Thunder Battle Armor.

Long ago in his last life, the Thunder Battle Armor had appeared before, and its owner at that time was the famous Thunder Empress—Zi Xue Xian, one of the seven ultimate elites of the Heaven Tier in his last life.

Though Zi Xue Xian was only ranked fourth amongst the seven kings of his last life, the three people ranked in front of her were super monsters like Sword Emperor, Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden, and Setting Sun Saber Emperor. Being ranked fourth did not mean that she was weak. On the other hand, aside from Ling Han, the other six people were all overwhelmingly powerful.

And the reason why Zi Xue Xian was so powerful was related to the fact that she was wearing the Thunder Battle Armor. This battle armor not only had shockingly high defense, but could also release the power of thunder, which allowed her to be ranked fourth.

He had never thought that at the end of 10,000 years, the Thunder Battle Armor would appear once again, and had actually fallen in the hands of such a "small party" like the Winter Moon Sect.

Could it be that Zi Xue Xian had fallen? That couldn't be right, either. Even if Zi Xue Xian did not manage to shatter the Void and become a God, she still had a Blue Thunder Sect behind her. That sect was a great sect and was still sturdy even today, as immortal as the Heaven's Sword Sect and the Absolute Saber Sect. How could they have allowed such a priceless treasure to be abandoned outside?

No, if this Thunder Battle Armor still had the might that it had previously, then would the Winter Moon Sect actually still use it as a prize? Even the most powerful of the Winter Moon Sect would covet such a treasure.

Perhaps it was too heavily damaged and so the Blue Thunder Sect had given up on it, and none of the powerful elites of Winter Moon Sect had any interest in it, simply deciding to use it as a prize. After all, it would still stay in the Winter Moon Sect in the end.

"Never mind, I'll get hold of it first," Ling Han mumbled to himself. He was really interested this time, because even if the Thunder Battle Armor was damaged, this was still a Level Nine Spirit Tool, and was definitely worth him making a move on it.

This time, the Winter Moon Sect would be recruiting a total of 10,000 disciples, and to squeeze into these 10,000 disciples was not an easy task as the number of young geniuses of the Northern region was uncountable. Furthermore, it was even more difficult to become the champion of these 10,000 winners.

Moreover, what was worse was the fact that even those disciples of the Winter Moon Sect that were under thirty years old could participate in this trial.

These people were naturally participating for the prizes. Aside from the prize for the champion, the Thunder Battle Armor, there were still other Spirit Tools, a few Spiritual Talismans, and some alchemical pills. Even for the disciples of the Winter Moon Sect, they were very attractive prizes.

Thankfully, everyone abided by the condition that only those below thirty years old could participate.

The content of the trial was extremely simple. Everyone would enter the Yu Long Mountains and given a very small plaque. In the subsequent three days, what everyone had to do was to snatch each other's plaques.

After three days, the number of plaques in everyone's possession would be counted, and those who managed to rank among the top 10,000 would be able to enter the Winter Moon Sect. And those who ranked among the top 100 would get the opportunity to enter into the second round of the trial, and the top ten would emerge from this second round. These ten people would then be able to get an additional prize, and the prize for the champion was the Thunder Battle Armor.

Thus, this was a matter of strategy.

Just from this place alone, there were a few hundred thousands people, and there was still a considerable number in Sea Breeze City. There would be no problem for the total number of participants to break through 1,000,000. This meant that there would definitely be large numbers of people who would be disqualified, but precisely due to this reason, some who were weaker in ability had another kind of value—if they sold off their plaques, it was definitely better than working hard for nothing.

More importantly, participating in this trial was an extremely dangerous thing. The Winter Moon Sect had not said that one was not allowed to wound or even kill another in this trial.

Once this information was known, many decided to give up. Since that was the case, why should they not take advantage of the opportunity to earn a small profit? Participate in the trial, get a plaque, and after the trial began, immediately hand over their plaque to the buyer, then leave.

Thus, those buyers with ability had already begun to take action,

and privately got in contact with others to discuss the selling price.

"Hi, this rather tanned brother!" Ling Han naturally was bothered by quite a considerable number of people. He had already sent off a lot of potential buyers, and this time, there came a rather plump young man, who was wearing gold, silver and jewels all over, as if he was afraid that others did not know that he was wealthy.

Ling Han's eyes swept over him. This young man was really quite wealthy. Those gold, silver and jewelled ornaments were naturally trash in the eyes of a martial artist, but the hairpin he was wearing was made from Black Lacquer Wood, his belt was woven from Spotted Flower Silk and Black Soar Gold Silk, and the sword sheath attached at his waist was forged from Eight Treasure Star Iron. These ingredients were all shockingly valuable, and required a great amount of Origin Crystals to obtain.

He believed that even for the True Disciples of the Winter Moon Sect, it would be a very surprising thing to get even one of these items, what more when so many different treasures belonged to one single person.

Ling Han had already changed his appearance to become a rather tanned young man. His face had changed considerably as well and become rather ordinary, so he now belonged to the type that would definitely not be noticed in a crowd.

"This brother with a plump purse, what is it?" Ling Han asked with a grin.

The plump young man bared his teeth with a smile which was full of sincerity. He stretched out a hand to pat Ling Han's shoulder, and said, "Brother, the trial will begin tomorrow, so do you want to get into the top 10,000, or even the top 100?"

"What is the use of mere wanting?" Ling Han sighed deliberately. He was a little surprised, since this guy was actually not here to buy off his plaque.

"Hehe, I have a way, as long as you can afford the price." The plump young man came closer, and said in a low voice, "I have a Spirit Tool that can be used by a Gushing Spring Tier martial artist, and the might of this Spirit Tool is comparable to the level of the Spiritual Ocean Tier! With this Spirit Tool in your possession, you need only wait for three days, then you'd be able to destroy all in our way, so there would naturally be multiple plaques just waiting for you to pick up."

"Oh, let me see!" Ling Han said, smiling.

"Come, come, come. Come with me someplace with less people. You can't allow such a treasure to be seen by others," the plump young man said, pretending to be very mysterious.

The two of them came to a remote corner. The plump young man drew out a crimson ball, and said, "This is called the Startling Heaven Thunderbolt Vanishing World, Exploding the World Extinguishing Extensively Exploding Light Sphere. Just look..." He shook the ball a few times and tossed it on the ground. Peng, instantly, a large explosion was caused, and the explosive force was shockingly tremendous.

When the dust had settled, the plump young man picked up the ball he had previously thrown onto the ground and said proudly to Ling Han, "How is it? However, this thing can only be used ten times, so when you take it back, don't use it too carelessly."

Ling Han grinned. The plump young man wore a ring, and this was not an ordinary ring, but a Spatial Spirit Tool. When he picked up that ball, he had already stored the ball back into the Spatial Ring, then drew out another ball from within. It looked the same, but it was a fake.

This was a conman.

Chapter 319: Lord Bao

The plump young man moved extremely fast, and if Ling Han did not still have a sliver of the divine sense of the Heaven Tier, he would definitely have discovered the trick the young man had played. However, with his sharp eyes, this fake Whatever Sphere could not have possibly deceived him.

"Come, come, come. Because you look pleasing to my eyes, I'll just ask for ten Origin Crystals." The plump young man came closer, and extended the ball towards Ling Han.

Ling Han received the ball, and said, smiling, "How about if I explode you, then I wouldn't have to pay a single Origin Crystal. While that would mean one less time I can use this, it is still a rather profitable bargain."

The plump young man laughed and said, "My tanned brother, you are really a great joker."

Ling Han gave a flick of his fingers, and the ball shot quickly towards the skies.

The plump young man could not help but follow it with his eyes and raised his head to look at the skies.

Ling Han moved to grab the hairpin on his head, and said with a smile, "I don't want that Whatever Sphere. I only want this hairpin on your head."

The plump young man was shocked and hurriedly raised his right hand. Weng, instantly, an intricate pattern of designs on his sleeve lit up, forming a gentle white light which blocked Ling Han's attack.

He experienced a slight tremble, and Ling Han could not help but take two steps back. He only felt a numbness in his right hand—there actually appeared spiderweb-like cracks on his hand, from which blood was seeping out, forming beads of blood on his hand.

But when he circulated the Indestructible Heaven Scroll, the wound immediately healed, and he was instantly unscathed again.

"Yo, so you're an expert!" The plump young man came back to his senses and stretched open his hand to catch the ball that Ling Han had previously thrown. Pa , unfortunately he had initially wanted to act cool, so he had not looked up at the skies at all. Who would have guessed that he had estimated wrongly, and the ball heavily dropped onto his head.

"Aiyo!" He quickly stretched out his hands to cover his head, and his cool image was instantly ruined.

Ling Han laughed loudly, and said, "Just from the outfit you're dressed in, no ordinary sect would be able to afford to develop you, so why have you come all the way here to trick little kids?"

"Ai, I won't deceive you. I'm just strong in appearance but weak in reality. If it wasn't because I had this outfit as support, when I encounter an expert like you, wouldn't I have the tables turned on me and be robbed? As the saying goes, if one is travelling around the country, one has to do two jobs at once and attach equal importance to each," the plump young man chattered endlessly, without the slightest embarrassment from being caught red-handed.

"Hehe, how should I address you?" Ling Han patted his shoulder.

"As the saying goes, if one is travelling outside, you have to depend on friends. My surname is Ma, and my name is Duo Bao. Others call me Lord Bao, but because we've hit it off so well, you can just call me Big Brother Bao," the plump young man declared casually.

"I say, Little Brother Bao, we're considered friends, and as the saying goes, you could stab knives at both sides for a friend. But I don't really need you to pierce yourself with a knife. However, this belt doesn't look bad, so why not just give it to me!" Ling Han said with a smile.

"Ah pei!" Ma Duo Bao instantly jumped. "You are really greedy. How much have I paid just to get this Black Jade Belt? Furthermore, I am Lord Bao, or Big Brother Bao, not Little Brother Bao!"

"Your surname is Ma, so why don't I call you Bao Ma!" Ling Han patted his shoulder, and continued, "This pair of shoes are not too bad either, and from what I can see, our feet are about the same size, so why don't we exchange shoes?"

"No way!" Ma Duo Bao rolled his eyes. "I say, how can you be even more two-faced than me?"

"Don't wrong me, I am very pure," Ling Han replied in a deadpan voice.

"Pure your sister!" Ma Duo Bao hurriedly ran off, and as he ran, he continued to say, "Don't waste the precious time I have to earn money. I'm going to go and con a few more idiots!"

Pa, pa, pa . By the time he had said his last words, there was already no sign of him.

Ling Han's expression tensed slightly. This young man was very unusual. From head to toe, whatever he wore were all Spirit Tools, and he himself gave Ling Han the feeling that he couldn't see through the former at all. The current world of martial arts was prospering, and not only were geniuses appearing endlessly like spring bamboo right after a shower, but so monsters and freaks were coming out successively.

He did not believe that he was the only one who had noticed that Ma Duo Bao was covered in Spirit Tools, but this brat was still living smoothly like a fish in water, so he had to have some tricks of his own that even those in the older generation did not make a move against him.

A smile curled up the corners of Ling Han's lips. He had now changed his appearance. Even if he entered the Black Tower in

public or use the Demon Birth Sword, who would have any idea who he was? Of course, if he could avoid using them, that was best. The most important thing now was to first get hold of the Thunder Battle Armor and create trouble at the Winter Moon Sect while he was at it.

Ling Han returned to his original spot and was just planning to rest for a moment when he saw a young man dressed in purple come over. There were more than ten people following behind him, and he carried himself with such arrogance as if his eyes were growing on his forehead.

"Hey, brat, during the trial tomorrow, just join our Zhao Alliance and become my underling," the purple-clad young man said, as if he was merely making a statement.

"Come and thank our Lord Zhao quickly. Otherwise, for a brat that is going solo like you, that would definitely be delivering yourself up to die!" One of his lackeys instantly started flattering.

"Brat, do you know how many famous geniuses have appeared this time around? Do you know of the Little Overlord Spear, Yang Chong? He's going to participate tomorrow as well. There's also the Sword of Justice, Bai Ming, and that's someone who has been praised as being able to split apart a mountain with a single strike!" the others added.

"If you meet with these people, your only fate would be death. That's why we have gathered in a group—only if we stay united by Lord Zhao's side would we be able to survive."

"You don't have to think about the top 100. Even the Winter Moon Sect would be sending their young elites to participate, so it'd be fine as long as we can enter into the top 10,000. After another five years, those of us who have still not yet reached thirty years old would naturally be able to participate in the trial next time, and at that time, we can compete for a good ranking."

Ling Han laughed loudly, and said, "Your plans are quite good.

However, a bunch of trash united together is still trash. I'm sorry, but I have no plans to work together with trash. That would lower my standing."

"Insolence!" These guys shouted in their anger and were just about to make a move on Ling Han, but were stopped by that purple-clad young man.

"It is strictly forbidden to make trouble at this moment. Whoever creates trouble will be disqualified, and in serious cases, they would even be killed on the spot!" the purple-clad young man rebuked sternly. He turned to look at Ling Han, and said with a smirk, "Tanned brat, you will submit to pressure only after turning down our request. Heng, make sure we don't meet tomorrow. If I don't rip out all the bones of your body, then my name is not Zhao Ri!"

A flash of killing intent flickered in Ling Han's eyes as well, and he said calmly, "If you are so desperate to seek your death, I would not mind killing a few pieces of trash."

"Heng, let's go!" Zhao Ri led the others away, and headed elsewhere to collect lackeys.

There were many people like that who were ensuring their positions with both money and ability. That was because it was not safe enough to simply buy plaques. The trial would last for three days, and if they were targeted by a powerful elite and subsequently robbed, then wouldn't that be a complete waste of their money?

As a result, those with the slightest bit of intelligence had begun to seek out lackeys. After all, there was strength in numbers, and others would not easily dare to assault them if there were many of them gathered together.

Ling Han was all alone by himself, and so was naturally continuously targeted by others who wanted to pull him into their camps. After all, "the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier" was

not considered weak anymore, and among the young generation, could be considered quite powerful.

Chapter 320: Secretly Intervening

In order to avoid being frequently harassed, Ling Han planned on going to a place where there were less people.

He squeezed through the crowd, and after a few steps, he suddenly stopped—he unexpectedly saw Qi Yong Ye, Zhao Huan, and other old friends from the Rain Country. There were still many people he didn't know. It should be because of him that the youngsters of Rain Country walked together, warming each other up.

It truly was quite the coincidence. Before they met at the small town in the Fallen Moon Gorge, and now here, making Ling Han feel as if he were still in the Imperial City in the Rain Country—why'd he see these people everywhere?

"...Unfortunately, Ling Han didn't attend, or else with his strength, not only would he firmly enter top hundred, but also would he have a chance of taking first in the second round's exam," Qi Yong Ye said, feeling deeply moved.

"Yeah, that guy is too freakish. He was obviously at the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, but his strength was heaven-defying, killing even a warrior in the Spiritual Ocean Tier." Zhao Huan nodded. He originally thought extremely highly of himself, even the Third Prince wasn't in his eyes—he thought that the Third Prince's cultivation was only slightly higher than his, and that was why the Third Prince was ranked above him.

However, seeing Ling Han attack, he was completely convinced.

Not to mention Ling Han, he absolutely couldn't compare with Feng Yan, Yan Tian Zhao, and even Hu Niu would completely overrun him.

He already completely abandoned his haughty airs, and after possessing a normal heart, he instead had great gains, already

feeling the great door to the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Qian Wu Yong shook his head as he said, "It can't be helped. Ling Han and the Winter Moon Sect have hatred solved only by death, so how could he possibly come here to find a teacher? Moreover, he's an Earth Grade alchemist, would he need to walk through these procedures? As his status can even parallel a sect master's, which large sect wouldn't want to clasp him in their palms?"

"Sigh, that's Thunder Battle Armor, and it's said to be passed down from the ancient times. There's even a strong art inside that can operate the power of lightning. Unfortunately, if Ling Han doesn't come, none of us here will get it." Qi Yong Ye shook his head repeatedly.

"Yeah!" Everyone nodded. They already developed some sort of blind faith regarding Ling Han's battle prowess.

Ling Han couldn't help but secretly laugh. If he were to take first, and if these people found out later on that it was he, what sort of expressions would they have then?

"Hahahaha, truly laughable." A sudden mocking laugh resounded as a youngster wearing a long gray sleeve robe walked over, picking his nose as he said, "Is it my ears that have problems, or is it that you frogs at the bottom of the well have a leak in your mouths, actually saying that someone in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier can take first place in this time's exam?"

"What does our conversation have to do with you?" Zhao Huan stood forward.

He was now the strongest one that walked out of the Rain Country's doors. Thus, encountering this situation, he naturally was unwilling to leave such responsibility to others, standing out first.

"If you guys spoke the truth, then there naturally wouldn't be a problem. The key is that you guys talk too big, so I just couldn't

hold back!" The gray robed youngster shook his head repeatedly. "How 'bout you guys call out the guy called Ling Han and let me have a look? I, Zhao Hong Cheng can suppress him with one hand."

"You want to battle, I'll keep you company!" Zhao Huan said without any fear.

"A mere ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier." Zhao Hong Cheng sneered and said in disdain, "I'm at the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier! You guys do know just how large the difference is between the Spiritual Ocean Tier and the Gushing Spring Tier? Even for a ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, the distance to first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier is separated by a great chasm. I wouldn't want to bully you."

Qi Yong Ye and the others' expressions stiffened. The higher the martial arts tier, the harder it was to cross tiers to battle, especially a large tier. They weren't so freakish like Ling Han, being able to dominate a Spiritual Ocean Tier warrior while at the "first" layer of the Gushing Spring.

"Oh, so you guys come from the Desolate North!" Zhao Hong Cheng clapped his hands abruptly, and laughed out loud. "No wonder the lack of experience, turns out you're a bunch of country bumpkins! Sigh, I'm truly bored to have lowered myself to the level of country bumpkins. If anyone were to know, they'd definitely mock me."

"Whatever, whatever, you guys continue to look at the sky from the bottom of the well. Wait till you encounter me tomorrow, hehe, I'll kill you guys one by one!"

As he spoke the last few words, his expression was already full of threat.

Qi Yong Ye and the others' expressions turned blue with anger, but the contrast in strength was clear—so what if they got more infuriated than ever? Besides, brawling wasn't tolerated at the bottom of the mountain gate of the Winter Moon Sect, and if they

dared to attack, they'd only invite humiliation and suffer the Winter Moon Sect's expulsion, having no chance in tomorrow's exam; that would be an even worse loss.

"Sadly, Ling Han isn't here, or else would this guy dare to be so arrogant?" Everyone was deeply resentful.

Not to mention Ling Han, Feng Yan or Yan Tian Zhao could easily suppress Zhao Hong Cheng, even Hu Niu could do it!

How unfortunate, how unfortunate...

Ling Han heard it all, and couldn't help but smile slightly, picking up a few random stones off the ground and curling his fingers to flick them.

"Ai Ya!" Zhao Hong Cheng stumbled abruptly as his right left leg went soft and he couldn't help but half-kneel on the ground. He immediately stood up again and shouted furiously, "Who, who dares to blindside me?"

Qi Yong Ye and the others were momentarily started, but after they heard Zhao Hong Cheng's words, they couldn't help but crack into laughter.

"Great expert Zhao, aren't you a great expert, so how come you don't know who surprise attacked you?"

"As I see it, this guy just naturally loves to kneel and has weak legs, so he found an excuse."

"Hehe, Great expert Zhao, your master's here, come kneel down again!"

Zhao Hong Cheng was so angry that his eyes burned with rage; he turned around fiercely, looking towards Qi Yong Ye and the others; even he didn't believe that amongst those people were an expert that could surprise attack him.

He looked toward his surroundings, and felt that most of the presences were at the Element Gathering Tier, and only a few

practitioners were in the Gushing Spring Tier, much less the Spiritual Ocean Tier—he was the only one.

Could he really just have had a cramp?

He turned to try to walk, but as his right leg raised up, he felt a fierce pain in his left leg. He staggered and knelt down again.

"Pwhahahaha!" Qi Yong Ye and the others guffawed again, but also revealed surprised expressions.

Once might have been by chance, but would a Spiritual Ocean Tier have such an accident twice? Then, someone definitely did sneak-attack Zhao Hong Cheng, and that person had to possess incredible strength to be able to do it while hidden so well.

"Subject Zhao, you may rise." Everyone naturally wouldn't let go of such a good chance to ridicule him.

Zhao Hong Cheng stood up, and this time he really was hurt somewhat seriously. Once he stood up, he stumbled once again, kneeling straight back down. He lowered his head, and revealed an horrified expression.

Shockingly, on his knee was a bloody hole, which must've penetrated right through his kneecap.

'Hiss!'

If the person wanted to kill him in secret, wouldn't that person's attack be able to easily penetrate through his skull? There were several hundred thousand people here, and even the Winter Moon Sect couldn't possibly control everything, right? One hit to kill without witnesses, how would they find the murderer?

Besides, he would be dead, so what if he could get revenge?

Zhao Hong cheng wasn't stupid, hurriedly stood up on one leg, paid respect towards his surroundings, and said, "This Senior, this junior doesn't know where he has offended you, please forgive me. No matter what this junior has done or said, he was simply sharp-

tongued but without malice!"

He paused momentarily, and when he saw that there were no movements in the surrounding, he attempted to leave with a crippled leg. And this time, he no longer suffered another attack, finally resting assured. He felt cold sweat all over his body; his clothes were soaked thoroughly, sticking close to his body.

Ling Han smiled slightly. He intentionally beat Zhao Hong Yong into a cripple, so that, at least tomorrow, Zhao Hong Yong wouldn't be able to attend the exam. Thus, Zhao Hong Yong naturally wouldn't encounter Qi Yong Ye and the others, and neither would he be able to enforce his threat and kill them.

Chapter 321: The Examination Begins

One day's time quickly passed, and the Winter Moon Sect's once-every-five-years disciple recruitment event finally began.

Hong long long , the enormous mountain gate, which hasn't been opened for an unknown amount of time, slowly opened. It was so heavy that when it opened, it was as if an earthquake had happened. Se se se , small rocks kept falling down from the nearby mountain walls, and the mud on the ground was trembling like a carpet.

Everyone's scalps numbed. This was truly too stunning. Just opening the mountain gates could cause such a large commotion...

An indescribably dazzling flash of light shot out from within the mountain gates and made everyone close their eyes instinctively, not daring to look. Only after this light gradually went from strong to weak then gentle did people look over again.

At this time, an old man walked through the mountain gates, stepping through the air. With each step a flower blossomed, and formed extremely bright lines of fabric one after another, not disappearing for a long time.

Flying through the air with one's physical body—the Flower Blossom Tier!

Everyone instinctively felt deep veneration. This was an existence beyond mortals, and in normal people's eyes, one just like god; otherwise, even if mortals could fly, could they have a long lifespan that reached two to three hundred years?

"This sect opens its gates, for disciple recruitment has officially begun," the old man said indifferently. His voice was very soft, but traveled to everyone's ears extremely clearly. At the same time, it suppressed the voices of the hundred thousands of people here.

It was very hard to imagine so many people shutting their

mouths all together. The scene was so quiet that the drop of a needle could be heard, and the truth was so; if a Flower Blossom Tier warrior's presence couldn't suppress a hundred thousand normal people, then they wouldn't be worthy of being called those who surpassed mortals.

"The rules you all know, so this old man will speak briefly. Enter the mount gates in sequence and pick up a token, then go into the mountain forest from the side. There is where you will fight.

This sect's disciples that are under thirty years old can also attend, but they can only join on the third day.

Battle and seize the tokens—this is your priority. You have to get to the northwestern part of Yu Long Mountains in three days, there is a ravine called Fallen Goose Valley there. When the moon rises to the zenith on the third day, those who haven't reached the Fallen Goose Valley will be disqualified.

So, if you think you've gotten enough tokens, then you can head to the Fallen Goose Valley early on. You don't have to wait until the three days are over.

Depart from here; a total of twenty-six routes that lead to the Fallen Goose Gorge. You guys can decide on your own which path to take.

Since you attend the exam, life and death is your own responsibility. Start."

The old man sat cross-legged, suspended in the sky, but his large presence pressed down and made everyone feel as if a stone pressured their hearts, not daring to breath loudly.

Everyone walked forward one by one to receive their tokens. Those all alone immediately ran towards the depths of the forest, and those seeking to form a party began to wait here. Very soon, small teams were formed one by one.

Ling Han's gaze swept by. He saw several people who stood out: a

red clothed youngster carrying a six-meter long spear, emitting an iron-blooded and bloodthirsty aura—his cultivation was of the seventh layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, quite beyond the norm.

Ling Han judged he was Little Overlord Spear Yang Chong, who reached the seventh layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier at twenty-four years old—he was out of the ordinary as expected. Guang Yuan used to be at the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier and now crossed into the eighth layer, but the two were twenty years old apart.

Yang Chong immediately felt Ling Han's gaze and looked back contemptuously. He resumed to take large strides forward, seemingly not to care about Ling Han at all.

'Yes, this guy needs a good beating,' Ling Han thought to himself. He then looked towards a youngster with a sword fastened by the waist. Hearing the discussions of the surrounding people, that was Sword of Justice Bai Ming, also at the seventh layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, his battle prowess was unfathomable. It was rumored that he'd once slain a bandit at the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier with one strike, and his reputation was very widespread.

There was also a red-coated girl whose face was like peach blossom, breathtakingly beautiful. A large red flower was fixed on her head, contrasting with her delicate white face such that it was alluringly beautiful. A black whip was tied around her—it outlined her thin waist as if it could be grasped with one hand. It made her lofty bosom appear even grander, and her perky buttocks formed a stunning arc.

In the martial arts world, the number of females was evidently less than that of males, and beautiful women were even rarer. Much less, this girl was also at the Spiritual Ocean Tier! Thus, she was like a magnet that attracted countless gazes of people in the surroundings; men were fervent, and women envious.

From the discussions of the surrounding people, Ling Han found out this girl was called Si Qi Meng; as for whether she was strong or not, no one knew as no one has seen her attack.

Ling Han temporarily only saw three slightly stronger people—there were too many people here, and he had no way of seeing them all; he could only see the few near him.

The tide of people was too congested, so after one hour, Ling Han finally entered the mountain gates and received a token. He walked slowly into the mountain forest and immediately saw a group of people set their gazes on him.

However, the more calm and collected he behaved, the more these people dared not to move rashly. Who knew if he was disguising as a pig to prey on the tiger? Also, the Winter Moon Sect never said one couldn't use Spirit Tools; on top of that, battle prowess could be completely inestimable.

However, even if they didn't attack, that didn't mean that others wouldn't.

"Hand over the token and get lost!" Yang Chong took large strides over and yelled at a small team that guarded here. The other party was waiting for their people and hadn't left.

"Yang Chong, the exam just started, why must you have such great temper? Give I, Miao Tai Ning, face, and let everyone mind their own business. How about it?" The team's leader walked out and saluted towards Yang Chong with folded hands.

"Courting death!" Yang Chong sneered, charging out and throwing out two palms together.

"How brazen!" Miao Tai Ning yelled furiously and hurriedly called his underlings to meet the fight.

However, no matter how many dregs added together, they were still dregs. These people weren't even qualified to force Yang Chong to draw his spear, and instantly, three people were smashed

into bloody rain by iron fists. Miao Tai Ning was one of them and this instantly scared the others, who completely lost their fighting spirit, turning to run.

"All of you stay!" Yang Chong leapt out; one punch took care of one, and instantly, this small team was annihilated. He looked towards a passing youngster and said, "You, search out the tokens on their bodies for me."

The youngster was scared pale and didn't dare to resist at all, hurriedly finding the tokens on the corpses that were all over the ground and carrying them quiveringly before Yang Chong.

Yang Chong took out a bag and put away the tokens then waved his hands as he said, "Get lost, if I see you again within a day, I won't make things difficult for you!"

"T-thank you very much, Young Master Yang!" The youngster exulted, hurriedly bowing his head to say thanks.

Yang Chong paid no heed, shifting his gaze to another small team; his murderous spirit could be felt slightly.

"Run!" The few small teams immediately fled helter-skelter, running into the forest as if they were already dead.

Yang Chong revealed an expression of disdain, but as his gaze swept by, he revealed an intense desire for battle and said, "You two, want to battle me?"

Bai Ming and Si Qi Meng had already received their tokens and walked towards the mountain gates.

Chapter 322: People with the Same Pursuit

These three strong prodigies all had the cultivation of the seventh layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, it was quite surprising.

Bai Ming showed no sign of weakness and looked towards Yang Chong, and Yang Chong did the same. One reached towards the sword hilt, and the other reached towards the spear, burning with desire for battle almost as if they were going up in flames.

But at last, they didn't make a move, only looking at each other deeply before they entered the forest on their own.

The exam just started, it was too early to fight. Even if they won, they wouldn't obtain many tokens, and instead they would just reveal their own trump cards; they weren't the only prodigies here.

"That tanned brother." Within the shouting, a fat and round youngster ran over almost as if he was rolling, stopping in front of Ling Han, panting. "You're too unfriendly, not even waiting for Treasure Master."

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "You still dare to show up? Aren't you afraid of your shady business being exposed and being chased after by people?"

"Pah, where have I lied?" Ma Duo Bao sneered. "Treasure Master never cheats in his dealings, don't you ruin Treasure Master's reputation."

"Hold it, do you even have any reputation?" Ling Han shook his head.

"Black Brother, how about we join hands?" Ma Duo Bao came closer.

"Why?" Ling Han asked. "You're covered with jewels and pearls from head to toe, and you still need to join hands?"

If he didn't unleash Demon Birth Sword, even he couldn't deal

with all of Ma Duo Bao's Spirit Tools.

"Hehe, Black Brother, wouldn't you want to do a huge business deal?" Ma Duo Bao smiled evilly, moved his head closer, and said in a low voice, "Don't tell me that you're not interested in the medicinal garden here!"

Ling Han was shocked. He said, "You want to steal from the medicinal garden here? Such great nerve."

"Hehe, we're people with the same pursuit; the second in line doesn't tell off the boss!" Ma Duo Bao cupped his hands in salute to Ling Han, and said, "How about it, how about it? Treasure Master is most adept in lifting restrictions. What can you do?"

Ling Han scratched his head, and said, "From where did you get that I looked like a thief, and how come you're admitting it all on your own?"

Ma Duo Bao laughed out loud and said, "All right, all right. Treasure Master's done business for so many years, so the moment you lift your butt, Treasure Master will know what kind of crap you defecate. Like I said, we're people with the same pursuit, yet you try to cover it up. Are you not regarding Treasure Master as a friend?"

Ling Han rolled his eyes and said, "We were never friends!"

"Unfamiliar at first, but well accustomed soon enough, aren't we already friends?" Ma Duo Bao looked at Ling Han twice more. "This disguise technique of yours is really not bad, even almost deceiving Treasure Master."

This time, Ling Han was truly shocked—the other party could actually see through his disguise?

He activated the Eye of Truth and looked towards Ma Duo Bao, but Ma Duo Bao reached out to cover his face—the lines of fabric on his sleeves emitted a faint light, making even Ling Han's Eye of Truth unable to penetrate it.

"Wow, what luck you have to actually have gotten the Eye of Truth! Hahaha, now Treasure Master has complete certainty. You'll be responsible for using your eye, and Treasure Master will be responsible for using his hands. I promise you that we'll steal the medicinal garden till it's barren," Ma Duo Bao said excitedly.

A coldness arose within Ling Han's heart. This guy could recognize the Eye of Truth with one glance—was he really just a youngster? If he could disguise himself, why couldn't the other party? However, when they entered the mountain gates, a Flower Blossom Tier cultivator appeared. He might have looked unperturbed, but if a person with makeup surpassing the age limit were hidden in the crowd, he would definitely have found out at once.

Young or not could be seen from one's life force. The various functions of the bodies of those past thirty would start going on a down slope and their life force would appear to be on a downward trend as long as they didn't enter Flower Blossom Tier, which was completely different from the vigor of youngster.

However, if Ma Duo Bao was an old monster in disguise, and could deceive a Flower Blossom Tier practitioner's eyesight, what cultivation was he at?

Ling Han thought to himself, and said, "Alright, then let's join hands." He was very interested in emptying the Winter Moon Sect's medicinal garden.

Yu Long Mountains were the Winter Moon Sect's private property, and in order to avoid people from sneaking into the mountains to dig up herbs and hunt monsters, the entire mountain range was protected by a mountain-protecting formation. If one tried to break through it with external power, the Winter Moon Sect would definitely be alarmed.

However, they already entered the Winter Moon Sect, so they weren't scared of tripping the formation. As long as they had the

ability to open up the medicinal garden's restriction, they could easily rob the medicinal garden empty.

They looked at each other, both starting to laugh.

As they advanced, it was clear Ma Duo Bao had done the groundwork, staying in front to lead the way and walking in a fixed direction.

"Stop there, hand over you tokens, and I can spare you your lives." However, after they walked for a while, they encountered a small team in ambush. A total of thirty-four people began to surround them.

"You go or I go?" Ling Han said smiling at Ma Duo Bao

"Treasure Master is only interested in Treasures, just keep the tokens for yourself." Ma Duo Bao shrugged.

As expected, this guy came especially for the Winter Moon Sect's medicinal garden. Earlier, he probably scammed other people's Origin Crystals on a whim, and thought that it was dumb not to take advantages when there was a chance.

Ling Han looked towards those people and said with a smile, "Now it's a robbery. Get a bit more serious, and hand over all of your tokens."

Those people were fuming with anger. They were the ones that was doing the robbery, alright?

"If you must go about it the hard way... Brothers, kill him!" These people waved their sabers and swords and charged over.

Ling Han frowned. If these people were just robbing, then he wouldn't mind robbing back and letting them live. However, these people now bared their killing intent, already harboring the thought to kill.

He snorted and tapped the sword's sheath with his left hand. Xiu, the long sword instantly bounced out, seized by his hands, and

with a shua , a dazzling sword light swept across.

Pu, pu, pu, pu, fresh blood splattered everywhere. Traces of blood appeared on their right shoulders which immediately hung limply, the weapons in their hands instantly falling onto the ground as cries were heard one after another.

Ma Duo Bao clapped as he said, "Good job on acting cool, I give you ten points!"

Ling Han still didn't kill them in the end, so settled for only crippling their right arms. It wouldn't affect their movements hereafter, but they wouldn't ever be able to use violence. He said indifferently, "Leave your tokens and get lost."

These people knew they encountered an expert; with pale faces, they hurriedly placed their tokens together and ran right away without saying a word.

Now they were simply injured, and if they still weren't sensible, then they might also lose their lives.

They ran backwards one after another. With their arms crippled, what the hell was the point in fighting.

Ling Han picked up the tokens and put them away into the Black Tower. In front of Ma Duo Bao who was adorned with jewels and pearls, he wouldn't mind revealing his possession of a spatial spirit tool; Ma Duo Bao definitely wouldn't think of the Black Tower that could form its own world.

On the way, they encountered several more robberies. Ling Han normally wouldn't kill, unless the other party had gone too far. For example, if others unleashed a fatal sneak attack, then he wouldn't mind killing the other party with one strike.

After half a day, they finally arrived at a large medicine garden.

Chapter 323: Robbing the Medicinal Garden

It was not quite a medicinal garden but rather a large scale medicinal farm, for there were only a few trees used for timber in the surroundings, wrapped by some cloth, forming a wall that couldn't block anything.

However, Ling Han and Ma Duo Bao both revealed cautious looks.

This medicinal garden had a restriction protecting it.

It might look slack, but it was not so—it was filled with great danger instead.

"Little Brother Treasure, why don't you explain how we can sneak in without a stir?" Ling Han said. This medicinal garden was massive, taking up half of the mountaintop, and within it were fields upon fields of spirit medicine, which almost made him drool as he saw them.

There certainly were a few high-level spirit medicines, some he hadn't even seen in his previous life.

After all, the Winter Moon Sect was a superpower in the north region.

"It's Treasure Master! Older Brother Treasure!" Ma Duo Bao emphasized, rubbing his hands together and staring at the medicinal garden. "Now, use your Eye of Truth to find the weakest point of the defense. Treasure Master has a way to open a door that can be maintained for one day. However, we'll definitely have to slip out after one day."

"That's enough." Ling Han nodded. He activated the Eye of Truth at once and began searching.

It could see through the fabricated, reaching the essence—using it to unravel formations was the best option.

Weng , flashes of golden lines of fabric were in his eyes, and the world immediately appeared in a different form. This was a world completely made up of the six Origin Source elements: gold, wood, water, fire, earth, and thunder element, which formed the cornerstones of the world from which everything else evolved.

The restriction on the medicinal garden completely emerged in front of him, each and every nodal joint without a thread of secret.

Unfortunately, this restriction was too strong. If Ling Han were to unravel it now, then he would instantly collapse. However, to find the weakest location was still easy. Very soon, he pointed in a direction and said, "There."

The two walked over and Ma Duo Bao took out three spirit talismans while muttering incantations. Weng, weng, weng, the three talismans immediately shone and he hurriedly pressed into the air, and with a pa, pa, pa , the three talismans were as if stuck to a wall, floating in midair.

The three talismans took three corners; each had two flashes of light surging out that connected to the other two talismans, forming a triangle.

"Let's go!" Ma Duo Bao leapt out and through the triangle, entering into the medicinal garden.

This triangle was very small. Normally speaking, it would be impossible to pass through with Ma Duo Bao's physique, but he contracted his stomach and his large belly actually disappeared all at once, easily passing through.

Ling Han couldn't help but laugh as he said, "Little Brother Treasure, if you lost weight, you'd have some game."

"Pah, this body full of meat is Treasure Master's baby, priceless." Ma Duo Bao breathed in, and his belly instantly swelled up, returning to its original state.

Ling Han also leapt through into the medicinal garden.

"Hopefully the spirit talismans won't be taken off, or else we'd be like a turtle in a jar," Ma Duo Bao muttered.

"Hey, hey, hey, you only have three of those spirit talismans?" Ling Han took a hold of him.

"Treasure Master's busy, how could Treasure Master possibly have spirit talismans left!" Ma Duo Bao said boldly and confidently.

Which meant that he'd done so many illicit things that he hadn't had the time to replenish such spirit talismans.

Ling Han sighed and said, "Aren't you too unreliable?"

"You just found out?" Ma Duo Bao glared. "Hurry up, hurry up, let's split up and leave when we've scooped up enough. If your greed gets you trapped and captured, then that's not on Treasure Master."

"The feeling's mutual." Ling Han smiled.

Ma Duo Bao turned to leave and find high value spirit medicines to harvest. If they were to rob by cleaning whole areas, it wouldn't take long to startle the Winter Moon Sect, so they could only collect selectively.

Ling Han also immediately began to move. There was quite a decent amount of valuable spirit medicines here. After all, this was one of north region's five strongest forces. However, Eight Tier and above spirit medicines couldn't possibly be seen.

There was definitely a reason for north region's martial arts level being low. It concerned the environment, which limited high level spirit medicines growing... unless there was some special circumstance, like a Shattering Void Tier warrior's corpse, which perhaps contained enough "fertilizer" to breed a stalk of Tenth Tier medicine.

Ling Han selected by genus, digging it up by the roots and sending it into the Black Tower.

In any case, one year in the Black Tower was equivalent to a thousand years in the outside world. He would soon be able to turn one stalk of a spirit medicine into a dozen stalks, and into a hundred stalks.

He was collecting awfully happily, but in a short while, he heard a loud sound and felt fierce waves of Origin Power transmit over, shaking even the spirit medicines here.

"Tanned Brother, time to bolt!" He heard Ma Duo Bao's tragic scream that was as if a pig was being killed. His extremely fat physique appeared immediately after, and behind him was an expressionless old man with the Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivation!

"Sh!t, why'd you bring him over here?" Ling Han hurriedly broke into a run as well.

"Treasure Master couldn't possibly know you were here!" Ma Duo Bao said, feeling wronged. "But, for better or for worse, you're Treasure Master's brother from now on!"

"No, I'm afraid that I'll be thoroughly deceived by you!" Ling Han rejected decisively; this fatty was too devious.

"Pah, you actually dare to give Treasure Master the cold shoulder!" Ma Duo Bao was extremely displeased.

The Spiritual Pedestal Tier at the back was finally angered as he yelled out, "Two foolishly daring thieves actually daring to steal from this sect's medicinal garden, submit to arrest swiftly, or else, once you're in this old man's hands, I'll promise to peel your skin and lash your veins!"

"Pah, you think Treasure Master was scared into maturity?" Ma Duo Bao stuck up his butt, slapped it hard, and said, "Come catch Treasure Master! Tanned Brother, this old man's up to you, Treasure Master's got some stuff, so I'll be going first!"

Shua , his figure accelerated fiercely.

It was unknown who said it, but when running for your life, you

don't have to be the fastest... as long as you're faster than the ones running along with you.

Those words were very true!

Now, the Spiritual Pedestal Tier old man was closer and closer, only a few meters from Ling Han.

"You damned fatso!" Ling Han cursed. He hurriedly unleashed his sword, slicing it diagonally; instantly, a stalk of spirit grass was sliced off, and he threw it with a palm, smashing the spirit medicine at the old man.

"Old wretch, if you dare get any closer, careful that this master might be out of sorts and everything here could be destroyed!" he said with a smile.

The old man reached out with his hand and swiped the spirit medicine to the side, immediately revealing an expression of caution in fear of more destruction. He was responsible for guarding the medicinal garden. If he let the place suffer large damage, then even if he caught the two vermin, he would still suffer severe punishment.

In any case, these two people's cultivation was so low that even if they ran out of the medicinal garden, he would have the chance to attack without restraint.

With that decided, he slowed down his steps, and maintained about thirty meters of distance from Ling Han, no longer approaching.

Xiu, xiu, xiu, the three were like a line, leaping swiftly.

The door opened earlier was already in sight, and Ma Duo Bao was the first to flee through it; however, he didn't leave and waited at the door, reaching out with both hands and waiting for the instant Ling Han fled through. Shua, shua, shua, both his hands moved repeatedly and instantly ripped off the three spirit talismans.

Peng!

The Spiritual Pedestal Tier old man rammed right into the restriction, and instantly, a terrifyingly large power rolled by, sending him flying and rolling over everything in his path—who knew how many flowers and grasses he ruined.

"Restrain your grief!" Ling Han and Ma Duo Bao said at the same time.

Chapter 324: Yellow Dragon Fruit

Although the Spiritual Pedestal Tier old man fell heavily, his strength was out of the ordinary after all; he immediately jumped up again, though his body was covered in blood. He instantly ran back to the restriction and stared fiercely at Ling Han and Ma Duo Bao.

"You guys won't get away!" he yelled, straining his voice.

A dignified Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivator actually let two juniors run from right under his nose. How could he bear to stand this? This wasn't just about losing face, but being an incompetent sentry—the sect's punishment would definitely await him.

"Pah, Treasure Master will leave how he wants, and leave whenever he wants. Can you deal with me?" Ma Duo Bao turned around and patted his butt at the old man. "If you have the ability, come bite Treasure Master's butt!"

"Tanned Brother, give me a Disguise Pill quickly!" As he turned his head, his expression changed, ingratiating himself with Ling Han.

Ling Han laughed with mischief and said, "We're brothers, and I can surely give you a Disguise Pill, but that hairpin on your head is not bad."

"No!" Ma Duo Bao hurriedly shook his head.

"That waist band..."

"No!"

"Boots?"

"No!"

"Then goodbye, I wish you luck!" Ling Han clapped his hands, about to walk off swaggeringly.

"Tanned Brother, you can't just stand by when some is in peril!"

Ma Duo Bao hurriedly pulled onto Ling Han, and said clenching his teeth, "Treasure Master's going for broke, I'll sleep with you for two days!"

Pu!

Ling Han instantly spurted out his saliva and hurriedly threw a Disguise Pill at Ma Duo Bao, leaping out. "Damned fatty, stay away from me, or else I'll cut off all your fat!"

Seeing Ling Han disappear in the forest afar, Ma Duo Bao couldn't help but reveal a deep smile of satisfaction. "Interesting, interesting." He picked up the Disguise Pill, smelled it, looked at it for a while, and involuntarily revealed a astounded expression. "This technique is quite experienced, is it truly something that a seventeen year old youngster can refine? Besides, Treasure Master sees that his soul is somewhat strange."

He shrugged his shoulders and walked ahead, leaving the Spiritual Pedestal Tier old man gnashing his teeth in anger and to no avail. This restriction no doubt made people unable to enter the medicinal garden easily, but at the same time, it made the people inside the medicinal garden unable to leave easily.

Ling Han jumped onto a large tree, directly entering the Black Tower. He calmly and collectedly started to renew his disguise, changing into a new pair of clothes. In a short while, he turned into a pale-faced scholar.

If he were willing, he could also activate Origin Power to temporarily change his height, but firstly, it was uncomfortable, and secondly, to maintain it expended Origin Power, so he went without it. In any case, the "Tanned Brother" was also his disguise.

He didn't immediately leave the Black Tower and planted the spirit grasses he had just thrown in. In order to save time earlier, he only put the spirit grasses inside.

It might not have been a lot of time he spent there, but he still

dug up a few dozen spirit medicines, seven of which were even Fifth Tier spirit medicine, the price of which was quite shocking.

Unfortunately, there was no time to go to the core area of the medicinal garden, or else he would've earned more.

A few dozen spirit medicines could only make the Winter Moon Sect feel a bit distressed.

After taking care of the spirit medicine, Ling Han came out of the Black Tower. Now that he was done, he was better off getting some tokens, since he had to advance into top one hundred to qualify for the next round's exam; otherwise, how would he get the Thunder Battle Armor?

On his way, he encountered quite a few surprise attacks from those who wanted to seize his tokens, but they were utterly beaten up by him, and he was raking in their tokens instead. At this day's nightfall, Ling Han had over seven hundred tokens.

Ding, ding, ding, the sound of weapons clashing came over. With a flash of wit, Ling Han sped up his footsteps; he wouldn't mind collecting some more tokens.

Very quickly, two hundred people team group battle appeared in front of him. Quite a few people already fell down on the side, blood spilling all over the ground. After a while, the flowers, grasses, and trees should grow to look more luxuriant.

Ling Han was astounded; this world was too small—one of the hundred-people teams was actually the Rain Country's people.

Qi Yong Ye, Zhao Huan, and the others were shockingly within it, now battling fiercely, shouting continuously, waving their sabers, sword, spears, and all sorts of weapons, unleashing violent attacks towards their opponents.

Ling Han couldn't help but sigh. For a spot to enter the Winter Moon Sect, they shed their blood and laid down their life; was it worth it? The key was that even if they were riddled with scars,

they might not even be able to enter the Winter Moon Sect successfully.

For martial artists, being able to enter north region's holy land of martial arts meant extremely bright prospects. They could change their entire lives, so why wouldn't they fight desperately?

Ling Han shook his head and jumped in, staggering along as if he suffered from the affects of the battle, unable to escape in time. However, as he was flailing around, he could always trip and push away a few people; these people were by coincidence the Rain Country's opponents.

Under this disturbance, the opponents were instantly crushed, and not long after, the remaining people threw off all their gear and fled helter-skelter.

Everyone was just a motley crowd, temporarily forming a team.

Qi Yong Ye and the others looked at Ling Han, feeling that this guy was too lucky, staggering into the battle, but instantly changing the battle's outcome. Seeing that he was only in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, it was apparent that those were not his intentions earlier—could every practitioner at the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier be such an anomaly like Ling Han?

"This one, what are you called? It was all thanks to you earlier," Zhao said with a smile; he was now the leader of the Rain Country's martial artists.

"I'm called Hu Yan," Ling Han said. Hu Yan, which obviously meant to talk nonsense.

Qi Yong Ye and the others actually didn't notice the implicit meaning in those words. Although Ling Han acted thoughtlessly earlier, it nevertheless changed the battle's outcome, making everyone feel extremely grateful. They didn't ask where he was from, and treated him with great enthusiasm.

After Qi Yong Ye and the others looked at each other, Qi Yong Ye suddenly asked, "Brother Hu, do you know why we came into conflict with them?"

"Was it not because of tokens?" Ling Han answered with a question.

"Tokens are only one aspect, but more importantly, both parties found a stalk of Fourth Tier spirit medicine called Yellow Dragon Fruit," Zhao Huan said solemnly.

Ling Han involuntarily revealed an astounded expression, and said, "Yellow Dragon Fruit is a superb spirit medicine that doesn't need to be refined, directly taking it can strengthen physique and raise the body's potential for martial artists below the Spiritual Ocean Tier. It's a pretty good spirit medicine. No wonder, for this stalk of spirit medicine, you guys would fight over it with your lives."

He nodded. Yellow Dragon Fruit couldn't directly increase cultivation, but it could change someone's physique from the essence; this was a true spirit medicine. However, Yellow Dragon Fruit was of the Fourth Tier, so it was useless for martial artists above the Spiritual Ocean Tier. The improvement on physique could be considered trifling.

Ling Han's body received improvement from the roots of two godly medicine, and his physique had already reached a shocking level, far surpassing the Spiritual Ocean Tier's limit; therefore, Yellow Dragon Fruits' effects on him was pitifully little.

Seeing that Ling Han was only slightly astounded and didn't reveal the look of greed, Qi Yong Ye and the others were astonished. When they found the Yellow Dragon Fruit, everyone's eyes had gone red with desire.

"However, a beast guards the Yellow Dragon Fruit, and we didn't have time to lay our hands on it before encountering the enemy and starting to fight," Zhao Huan said.

Ling Han smiled faintly and said, "Are you guys inviting me to fight against that beast?"

Chapter 325: Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf

Zhao Huan shook his head repeatedly and said, "That's a Spiritual Ocean Tier beast, so we have absolutely no chance of beating it. My thoughts are that we branch out five people and attack from different directions to lure this beast from its lair.

Once the beast has left, the remaining people will immediately dig up the Yellow Dragon Fruit by the roots, and that beast will definitely not chase too far out. After it returns from its chase, we'll all escape unscathed."

Quite a great plan.

Ling Han wasn't so set on having the Yellow Dragon Fruit, but considering that Qi Yong Ye was an old friend, he was rather willing to lend a hand; moreover, he didn't need the Yellow Dragon Fruit, but he could give it to Liu Yu Tong, Li Si Chang, Can Ye, and the others.

...Hu Niu had also eaten the root of a godly medicine, and although it was only one root, the transformation was very amazing; the Yellow Dragon Fruit couldn't possibly have any effect anymore.

Besides, the Yellow Dragon Fruit was very practical in that it could be refined into a Restore Spirit Pill to compact the tiers of martial artists below the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

"Let's first go check out the situation." Ling Han didn't immediately make a decision.

"Yes." Everyone nodded.

They departed, and on the way, Ling Han said, "This Yellow Dragon Fruit is in Yu Long Mountains, so how come it hasn't been taken by the Winter Moon Sect?

"Hehe, that place is too remote!" Everyone laughed.

That made sense; although the entire Yu Long Mountains were the Winter Moon Sect's private property, the mountains were so large that the Winter Moon Sect could in reality only grasp a small area of them. The depths of the mountains were still primitive areas beasts ruled over, and it was said they were extremely terrifying existences in the Spiritual Infant Tier.

Thus, even the Winter Moon Sect would order its disciples not to trespass the Yu Long Mountains' depths, but if one wanted to get rich, one had to go there as high-level spirit medicine could be found in those places. There was even rare gold that could be forged into a divine weapon.

Risk always accompanied opportunities.

This was obviously not the depths of the Yu Long Mountains, but there were still places the Winter Moon Sect's disciples overlooked.

It certainly was so. As Qi Yong Ye and the rest leapt through the path—which was completely not something normal people could walk through, being extremely rugged—they arrived at a precipice, only to see a strange beast lying there and snoring loudly in its sleep.

This beast was a meter long, shaped like a dog, and its entire body was scarlet. However, there was a horn on its head and a circle of eyes on its face, forming a half circle—counting, there were exactly nine eyes.

Beside it grew a stalk of plant that was half a man's height, bearing rings of dense fruits, each no larger than a peanut—the amount was certainly something to be surprised about.

Ling Han's gaze swept by, but he gasped in surprise.

This was a Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf!

It wasn't a normal beast, but a king amongst beasts! This nine-eyed beast was unquestionably in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, but as a king, its battle prowess couldn't be rivaled by normal Spiritual

Ocean Tier beasts.

Ling Han immediately knew why this nine-eyed beast hadn't eaten the Yellow Dragon Fruits—it just advanced into the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier. Presumably, this beast was waiting until it was at the peak of the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier—it would eat the Yellow Dragon Fruit then, rising into Spiritual Pedestal Tier at one go.

A chance like improving one's physique was certainly better the later one's tier was, just like Black Tower's power boost. For beasts, it was so as well. If it absorbed the medicinal power before it broke through, matched with the drastic change inside its body, then it would definitely have an effect that was greater than one plus one equals two.

Beasts were quite intelligent to begin with, and had inborn abilities inherited by blood; although they didn't know how to refine pills, they surpassed humans in using spirit medicine because they always ate it raw.

"I'm afraid you guys will be disappointed." Ling Han shook his head, pointed at the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf, and said, "This is a Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf. It has cultivation in the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and is a king amongst beasts."

With that said, everyone was stunned.

A king; for humans, forming three flashes of qi would be a minor achievement, six flashes would be a major achievement, and above seven flashes would make one be counted as a king. In other words, this beast was equivalent to a warrior in the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier that had formed seven flashes of qi!

What could they even do?

There couldn't possibly lure it away, as it could kill offhandedly with an attack from extremely far away.

Phew, fortunately they immediately encountered another team;

otherwise, if they acted rashly, the team would already be annihilated.

"So what do we do, just give up?" someone said, unwilling to resign.

That was a Yellow Dragon Fruit, which could improve one's physique after it was taken, changing people from their essence.

Ling Han laughed and said, "There's a change in plans. Leave the mission of luring away the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf up to me, you guys only need to harvest the medicine." His gaze was burning. A beast with a king's bloodline... with such great tonic-like meat to replenish his qi and blood, he should be able to cultivate the Gushing Spring Tier to perfection and charge into the Spritual Ocean Tier.

"No!" Qi Yong Ye and the others immediately shook their heads, but some people nodded unceasingly. Since Ling Han was willing to play the hero, why not go ahead with it? Anyways, they didn't have any friendly relations with Ling Han.

"That's the plan!" Ling Han said. It wasn't that he wanted to be the hero, but to fight a king like the Nine-Eye Beast Wolf, he had to unleash his trump card, so he obviously had to act alone.

Without waiting to see whether people agree or not, Ling Han already charged out, holding a long sword in his hand. Under the surge of Origin Power, shua , he used his longsword as a concealed weapon, throwing it towards the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf.

Zi!

Before the longsword reached, the beast wolf already stood up; a flash of lightning shot out from one of its eyes, shattering the longsword. It growled deeply at Ling Han, but didn't rise up to chase.

Obviously, its intelligence wasn't low, and it didn't fall for the trap.

Ling Han smiled faintly. Another sword appeared in his hand—he threw it once again at the Nine-Eye Beast Wolf. The space inside the Black Tower was nearly infinite anyways, and the metal swords weren't valuable; he prepared at least several thousand.

Zi , another lightning formed from its eye, shattering the flying sword.

Ling Han didn't care, and just kept throwing. Xiu, xiu, xiu , flying swords shot at the beast altogether.

"Ang!" The great king of beasts was at last finally enraged, diving towards Ling Han.

"Dumb dog, come catch me!" Ling Han broke into a run, and carried out Shadow Wind Movement Technique. He was like a gust of wind, sweeping towards the distance.

Although the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf had high intelligence, it was a beast after all; its natural disposition was violent, as it unhesitantly carried out its chase.

One man and one wolf immediately disappeared into the distance.

"Quick, quickly harvest the Yellow Dragon Fruit!" everyone hurriedly said.

Zhao Huan watched Ling Han's silhouette from behind that had already disappeared, and said, "Don't you guys feel that this person seems like someone."

"What, you think so too?" Qian Wu Yong immediately said.

"Yes!" Qi Yong Ye, Bai Li Teng Yun and the others nodded successively.

"It's not time to talk about this, the Yellow Dragon Fruit's already in hand, let's retreat!"

They hurriedly turned around, retreating to where they promised to meet Ling Han.

"No need to wait, being targeted by the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf, he's definitely dead."

"That's right, hurry up and divide the Yellow Dragon Fruit!"

Some people immediately began to shout out.

"You guys have no shame. He risked his life to lure away the nine-eyed beast, and you guys say this. Do you guys still have any humanity?"

In that moment, everyone was somewhat silent.

"Hehe, well said, have you guys any shame?" A party of seven suddenly appeared.

Chapter 326: Fighting a King of Beasts Head-On

"Who are you?!" Zhao Huan immediately asked in a raised voice.

"Who are we?" Those seven people laughed aloud, and raised to reveal their hands. "Are you guys blind, can't even recognize the sect you're joining?"

"You're Winter Moon Sect's disciples!" Everyone came to a sudden realization.

"Didn't they say that you guys could only enter the test on the third day, how come you guys are here now?" Qian Wu Yong asked.

"You guys care about too many things!" one of Winter Moon Sect's disciple said. "Hmph, that Yellow Dragon Fruit belongs to this sect, and we're responsible for guarding it. You guys immediately hand it over, and we won't fuss over it."

"Bullsh!t!" Baili Teng Yun, young and aggressive, immediately lost it. "That was clearly a beast guarding it, so what does it have to do with you guys? I know, you guys definitely saw it coincidentally, and pretended to wait for us to retrieve the spirit medicine, jumping out to get it."

Pa, pa, pa, that Winter Moon Sect disciple began to applaud, and laughed. "Haha, exactly as you said, but so what if you guys know? I, Zhan Ming, am at the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and you guys added together won't even rival me."

On the side, another disciple suggested, "Senior Brother Zhan, the Yellow Dragon Fruit is of great importance, so we should kill them in case the information gets leaked."

Zhan Yuan pondered, and said, "Might as well, or else it wouldn't be good after all if people knew we attended the test today."

"Kill, kill all of them!"

Zhao Huan immediately drew his sword and said, "Wu Yong, Zi Yan, Feng Yue, you guys fight this Spiritual Ocean Tier guy with me; the rest of them are all at the Gushing Spring Tier, we still have some hope."

"Okay!" Everyone drew their weapons; the Yellow Dragon Fruit was too important, and none of them wanted to give it up.

Zhan Yuan sneered, and said, "A bunch of good-for-nothings that know not of their own limitations!"

The battle immediately began, and fresh blood was splattered violently again.

Ling Han leapt swiftly. Behind him, that beast was also getting closer and closer.

The beast didn't know of any movement techniques, but some agility-type beasts were naturally shockingly fast, comparable to martial artists of the same tier using a top grade movement technique of the same; it was as if a sort of art flowed through their blood, and they absolutely didn't need to activate it as it came out naturally along with their instincts.

Similarly, when the beast shot lightning from its eyes, this would be counted as an art in case of a martial artist, but for beasts, it was used in passing.

Thus, beasts would never back down when they encountered martial artists of the same tier, and at the level of kings, beasts were extremely terrifying as they could annihilate everything of the same cultivation.

Even if Ling Han used the high level Black Grade art, Shadow Wind Movement Technique, he was still getting caught up step by step by the Nine-Eye Beast Wolf; a fierce electric arc shot swiftly from its eyes towards Ling Han.

How fast was lightning?

Ling Han had only enough time to parry with his sword, and with a *zi*, he felt his right hand go numb as the entire sword turned into a puddle of metallic water; his purple robe was even split open, fresh blood gushing out.

'Shit.' He now had Rock Cliff Body, and his defensive abilities were superb, yet he was injured by this attack.

A King level beast, and its cultivation was whole lot higher than his. He might've been a bit reckless in wanting to kill it? However, this beast was at the kings' level, and could be used as a stepping stone to solidify his last cornerstone for breaking into the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

'No matter what, I have to try. I have Black Tower anyways, I can still hide if I can't beat it,' Ling Han thought shamelessly, but he only had a slight chance; he would definitely not give up even if he would end up riddled with scars.

He would never lose the spirit to adventure because of the Black Tower; it would only make him even more daring.

Zi!

The Nine-Eye Beast Wolf shot another electric arc over. Ling Han was too lazy to waste another sword, so he threw a punch whilst activating the Indestructible Heaven Scroll. A faint golden light flowed on his hand, and *hong*, the lightning arrived. Ling Han let out a smothered groan as his right fist was heavily injured again.

'Shit, although I'm in the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, I have long since fused the nine spring eyes, and it's a five elements origin nucleus—such power can definitely parallel a normal fourth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, even the fifth layer. But this large dog is only at the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, so how come its attacks are so fierce?

Were it not for my cultivation of Indestructible Heaven Scroll,

maybe my whole arm would've exploded upon receiving one move!' Ling Han thought to himself while activating Indestructible Heaven Scroll. His left hand very quickly returned to how it was before. Indestructible Heaven Scroll wasn't so obvious in improving his defense, at least at the Rock Cliff Tier; the powerful part was on the recovery.

However, it would be different upon advancing into the Diamond Tier. When that time came, his physique would be like an indestructible diamond, and his body would be almost undying.

Zi!

The Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf discharged its lightning again.

"You done yet!" Ling Han stopped running and turned around. It was secluded enough here and he was disguised, so even if other people found out some small secrets, it wouldn't matter.

Demon Birth Sword was unleashed and went head-on with the electric arc.

Pa , the electric arc hit and a bright field of light exploded, forming a dazzling white ball that could blind the human eye.

Ling Han revealed a faint smile, Tenth Tier Spirit Tools were kickass as expected—even if it wasn't fully resuscitated, the properties of it alone broke up the electric arc. It was expected; if it let the electric arc infiltrate his body, then Demon Birth Sword would be too useless.

Weng, weng, on the sword's body, two vein-like patterns lit up; this Spirit Tool was already recovering to a limited degree.

The Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf immediately revealed vigilance in its eyes. It was a king amongst beasts, being extremely sensitive to the presence of danger. However, it was quickly at ease, because the presence Demon Birth Sword gave off was dangerous but not powerful, making it fearless.

"Ang!" This beast wolf immediately pounced, waving its right

claw, which had ten vein-like patterns lit up at the same time.

Weng, weng, weng, martial intent vibrated, forming a terrifying pressure.

However, this was useless against Ling Han. A thread of Heaven Tier-level divine sense was enough for him to be immune to the majority of the pressure. He raised the sword and launched Four Seasons Sword Technique head-on against the beast wolf. Four types of concepts revolved together, instantly showing the changes of the four seasons and making people feel the lapse and transition of time.

Pu!

As the beast wolf's claws came down, the sword light was instantly shattered. The claw sent Ling Han flying and the clothes on his left shoulder were torn open, leaving a deep wound. Blood instantly gushed out, and the beast wolf's claw was also slit open, fresh blood gushing everywhere.

Demon Birth Sword was a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool, after all. Even if it wasn't resuscitated, its sharpness had not changed at all.

"My beast wolf blood!" Ling Han cried out regretfully. A beast king's was treasure from head to toe, especially its blood and bone marrow, which were greatly tonic and much stronger compared to hundred-year ginseng.

Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf's eyes instinctively revealed a threatened look. Those as strong as the Spiritual Ocean Tier had already attained wisdom, but they still maintained the bloodlust of beasts. It could understand Ling Han's words, which extremely infuriated it.

He actually cried out dearly for it... so he already took it as his food?

Chapter 327: Both Releasing Ultimate Moves

The Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf couldn't tolerate that a mere Gushing Spring Tier human dared to covet its body.

Die!

It pounced again, waving its claws towards Ling Han.

Ling Han didn't dare to receive it head on. He instead kept shifting his figure, activating the Indestructible Heaven Scroll to heal his wounds. One in the Spiritual Ocean Tier could manifest their martial intent, so if he was hit, the opponent's martial intent would also enter through the wound, slowing down the recovery and even entering the consciousness, destroying the spirit.

The Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf was a king, and its martial intent was even stronger. Ling Han immediately felt it extremely insufferable as if infinite vicious wolves were biting him.

With the Indestructible Heaven Scroll already activated, the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf's martial intent instantly melted immaculately as if a mantle of snow met boiling water.

Ling Han couldn't help but reveal a smile. This was because the Indestructible Heaven Scroll's level was too high, and thus, once it was activated, it could wipe away Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf's martial intent; this was the suppression of a higher level.

It certainly was a lost art that even he took ten millennia to learn, its power solid.

"Puppy, obediently become my rations!" Ling Han laughed loudly and waved his sword as he moved, but without a few hits he was sent flying by the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf. He bled nonstop, but since the Demon Birth Sword was extremely sharp, the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf would also bleed even from a mere graze.

Theoretically, the damage they sustained was completely on different levels, and Ling Han would definitely be the one to die of serious injuries as time went on. However, he had the Indestructible Heaven Scroll at hand, and his wounds could immediately heal. Furthermore, the Demon Birth Sword was a Tenth Tier weapon and had martial intent—even if it wasn't resuscitated—so it could still threaten a Spiritual Ocean Tier beast.

Thus, the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf would continue to bleed, although not by much; the longer the time, the more serious a damage would bleeding inflict.

Ling Han aimed precisely for this.

He waved the Demon Birth Sword as he took out a ginseng and, without any caution, just munched on it like a carrot.

If someone were to see it, they'd definitely scold him for squandering fortune.

This was a hundred year old ginseng, how could he waste it like that?

Ling Han didn't care at all. For others, this was a hundred-year-old ginseng, but for him, it was truly no different from a carrot—there were plenty inside the Black Tower. Besides, it was a few days since he departed from the Fallen Moon Gorge, and these ginsengs were ten years older with even better effects.

Gigseng was a great tonic, so he was alright with its support despite the profuse bleeding—or rather, he was at least a lot better off than the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf.

As they fought, the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf obviously realized this, and instantly went berserk; its attacks became even fiercer, seeking to kill Ling Han in one hit.

"Haha, although you are a king, I'm not too shabby, either!" Ling Han activated the Demon Birth Sword and seven flashes of sword qi flew across, showcasing that he was also a king—a king amongst

humans.

However, there was still a large tier's difference between them after all. The Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf completely had the upper hand, and Ling Han could only parry its attacks.

"Sigh, I've been smacked in the face!" Ling Han mocked himself, but no one would laugh at Ling Han for this, only admiring him greatly.

The Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf was a king amongst beasts, and on top of a large tier's advantage, it should've absolutely dominated him; the results were completely inconceivable.

Ling Han knew his own limitations. It wasn't that he was strong enough, but that he possessed the Indestructible Heaven Scroll, giving him the ability to tangle with it; otherwise, he would have already been annihilated by the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf. How could an art that needed ten millennia to comprehend not be strong?

He also possessed the Demon Birth Sword, and a large amount of hundred-year-old ginsengs, which gave him enough confidence. Without either of these conditions met, perhaps he would be able to protect himself, but he would be incapable of harming the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf.

He still hadn't used the Mysterious Three Thousand, because he wasn't certain if this attack could annihilate the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf. If this beast wolf suffered a great loss, it would definitely retreat, and with its speed... Ling Han couldn't catch up.

Thus, he definitely had to wait for the most opportune time to unleash the Mysterious Three Thousand.

After a long battle, Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf finally revealed a hint of weariness, and viciousness flashed by its eyes as all of its hairs all stood up. Zi , its nine eyes shot out lightning at the same time.

"It's unleashing its ultimate move!" Ling Han immediately looked stern. Nine flashes of lightning struck at the same time from

different directions, locking all of his escape routes. Moreover, he could at most block two flashes of lightning.

This was an ultimate move unleashed by a Spiritual Ocean Tier Beast King, so how could it be easy to block?

"Can't block it, I can only dodge." Waiting for the moment the lightning hit his body, Ling Han entered the Black Tower, and then immediately came out. Entering and exiting so fast that it was almost unperceivable, the lightning had already surged pass him.

He smiled faintly; although he had an unfair advantage, he didn't want to be electrified tender on the inside and crispy on the outside. Besides, there was a great gap between his and the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf's cultivations, fighting head-on was unfair to him.

The Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf's eyes showed its confusion; how did this human dodge its ultimate move? It should have been absolutely impossible. It accurately calculated Ling Han's speed and ability to wield a sword, so it should never have happened.

If it could open its mouth to speak, then it would definitely have already asked by now.

"Little wolf dog, you definitely wouldn't know, so just submit obediently without putting up a fight." Ling Han laughed loudly—the Black Tower was his true trump card.

The Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf's hairs stood up again. Pa, pa, pa, pa, nine flashes of lightning struck violently again.

Ling Han played the same old trick, entering and exiting the Tower, avoiding the beast wolf's ultimate move easily. He revealed an exulted expression, as an ultimate move like this used frequently would be a heavy burden for the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf; the time when he could unleash the Mysterious Three Thousand to end the battle was also getting closer.

However, as a king, the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf naturally wasn't stupid. Seeing that its ultimate move was useless, it no longer used

it. Instead, it continued to tangle with Ling Han. As the fight went on, its aggressive attitude weakened—not because its body couldn't hand it, but because it lost patience.

As a beast, it was violent, bloodthirsty, and proud, but at the same time, it lacked patience. Under a drawn out battle, it still couldn't take down its prey and its injuries were also not light—it made it finally conceive the thought of retreating.

Ling Han couldn't help but frown. He could obviously tell that, so he had to clench his teeth and unleash his ultimate move, or else this beast king would really run away.

The Mysterious Three Thousand!

He kept waiting to unleash it after having accumulated enough power, so the ultimate move was unleashed as soon as he thought of it.

Eight hundred sword lights fired out without reservation, yet didn't turn into black-armored warriors like last time. Apparently, Ling Han needed to cross into the Spiritual Ocean Tier—such miraculous effect might've only been produced under Black Tower's power boost, needing Ling Han to cross into the Spiritual Pedestal Tier to display that move's power again.

Even so, eight hundred sword lights were still extremely terrifying, covering the sky and the sun, with only five-colored sword lights shining down upon the world.

The Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf revealed intense fear. This sword technique's power was too strong, making even it feel anxiety, but at this moment, it could only receive it head on.

Chapter 328: Analysis

Sword light filled the whole sky!

This ultimate move's power far surpassed Ling Han's tier—even a king like the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf didn't dare to be careless. All of its hair stood up as a flashes of lightning shot out at the same time from its nine eyes, combining into one and forming a thick electric arc that fired towards Ling Han.

To catch bandits, catch the ringleader; If Ling Han was annihilated, then this move's power would naturally disperse on its own.

The lightning was also Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf's ultimate move.

Xiu, xiu, xiu, sword lights decreased in size, greeting the lightning. Pa, pa, pa, the sword lights were annihilated one after another, but at the same time, the lightning shrunk at a rapid pace.

Each sword light was equivalent to Ling Han's full-strength attack, and although it wasn't enough to battle Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf's full-strength attack head on, there were still many sword lights. With each sword light striking it, the lightning finally became as thin as a spider's thread, completely disappearing at last.

At this time, only three hundred sword lights remained.

Hong!

The Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf had already fired its ultimate move, so it couldn't possibly follow up with another one. It could only use its claws to guard its head. Three hundred sword lights struck, and the fierce clashes instantly produced flashes of blinding light.

Ling Han slumped onto the ground. He truly gave it his all with the strike just now, directly drawing out all the Origin Power inside his body. If this couldn't kill the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf, then he could only hide inside the Black Tower, wait for his Origin

Power to recover, and then find this beast king again.

Fortunately, the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf lay on the ground with fresh blood gushing out continuously; its chest was slightly moving up and down, signaling that it was still alive.

Kickass—it received the Mysterious Three Thousand head on and was only heavily injured.

Ling Han was deeply moved, but an intense fear arose in him toward the the Heaven's Sword Sect. Just what sort of force was it for it to possess such a terrifying ultimate move... too shocking. Even with his Heaven Tier experience, it was still very hard to use this sword art. Moreover, this sword art's power was linked to Sword Qi, and not everyone could cultivate it to such a terrifying degree.

Previously, when Ling Han pushed out seven hundred sword lights, he already guessed that the Mysterious Three Thousand's extreme should be at Sword Qi's consummation. Theoretically, a martial artist could cultivate to form ten flashes of Sword Qi, but there were still geniuses that cultivated eleven or twelve flashes. So, if one flash of Sword Qi could evolve into one hundred sword lights, then theoretically, one could cultivate twenty-nine flashes of Sword Qi, making up the three thousand.

The first form was Sword Qi, so Sword Ray should initiate the second form.

Sword Ray was Sword Qi extrapolating in this way, the third form Breaking Limits could only be used when one grasped sword heart.

The third form corresponded to three different stages in way of the sword.

That the Heaven's Sword Sect could stand erect for ten millennia without collapsing was expectedly not without reason.

"Senior Brother Jian Cheng, the battle ahead suddenly stopped.

Could they have battled it out?" A voice drifted over from afar.

"Hehe, battling so fiercely, we must go see just who it is!" Another voice sounded.

'Sh!t.' Ling Han hurriedly collected his thoughts and struggled to climb up. He only expended all his Origin Power, his physical stamina was still preserved. He walked staggeringly to the side of the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf, picked it up, and with a thought, xiu , he entered the Black Tower.

In an instant later, two figures arrived immediately at the same time.

It was two youngsters, only twenty-four or twenty-five years old, both looking handsome, confident, and out of this world. As for their cultivation, one was at the seventh layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and the other was shockingly at the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

"Huh, how come there's no sign of anyone?" the purpled-clothed youngster said.

The other youngster that wore a blue garment lowered his gaze, looking at the traces left from the battle, and said, "The battle just now was not between two people, but between a person and a beast."

"Senior Brother Jian Cheng, how so?" the purple-clothed person asked.

The blue garment youngster let out a smothered laugh and said, "There're claw marks everywhere, can't Junior Brother Yue tell?"

The purple-clothed person laughed too, and refuted, "Couldn't it possibly be one person who used a claw-type weapon?"

"It's certainly possible!" The youngster in the blue garment nodded. He then pointed to the ground and said, "However, there are still several footprints here, enough to prove that one side was a beast."

"Couldn't it be possible that two people battled, and one brought their pet beast?" The purple-clothed person seemed to like nitpicking.

The youngster in the blue garment laughed and said, "The footprints that belong to a human look exactly the same, don't you tell me that the two people were wearing the exact same shoes and their sizes are exactly the same."

Under this rebuke, the purple-clothed person paused, then muttered, "Could it not be possible?"

This seemed to be his favorite expression.

"From the traces of destruction, the battle prowess of the person and the beast were quite astonishing." The youngster in the blue garment no longer spoke sarcastically to his companion, and looked at the battle traces seriously. He revealed a stern expression and said, "This battle prowess is at least nine stars."

"Nine Stars?" The purple-clothed person was slightly shocked, and said, "Senior Brother Jian Cheng, not to mention the people in the current exam, there aren't many Spiritual Ocean Tier practitioners that possess nine star battle prowess even in our Winter Moon Sect."

The youngster in blue garment nodded and said, "There certainly aren't many, but not too few either, at least several hundred. Who exactly was it that came here to battle with a beast? Huh, this blood!" He revealed a shocked expression. There were large amounts of blood left by the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf, which the traces had glowing crimson-colored lines of fabric in them. As the blood itself was red, if one didn't examine them closely, one would really overlook it.

He thought of a possibility and cried out abruptly, "The Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf!"

"What?!" The purple-clothed person also revealed a shocked

expression. "I certainly heard that there was a Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf roaming around here, but the Spiritual Pedestal Tier experts have searched for it and even Flower Blossom Tiers swept over with their awareness, but they all found nothing at all."

"It should be it, this blood can't deceive me!" the youngster in the blue garment said, revealing a smile at the corner of his lips. "Interesting, interesting, one who could battle so fiercely with the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf... such a person is a worthy opponent."

"Hahaha, even you as one of the seven sons of the Ao Family feel the urge to battle?" The purple-clothed person laughed loudly.

The youngster in the blue garment, Ao Jian Cheng revealed an arrogant expression and said, "What's so interesting about bullying the weak. If I battle, I'll battle geniuses—only stepping on geniuses is pleasurable enough."

"Hahaha, Senior Brother Jian Cheng, the one I'm most impressed with amongst the seven sons of the Ao Family is you, and that is precisely because you possess a strong cultivator's desire for battle," the purple-clothed person said.

Ao Jian Cheng smiled faintly, but the arrogance in his expression didn't disappear as he said, "Let's go, there's nothing left to see here."

The two came quickly and left quickly.

Inside the Black Tower, Ling Han revealed a hostile expression—this guy was actually Ao Feng's son.

Chapter 329: Slaughter

Ling Han had previously heard the title 'the Seven Sons of the Ao Family', and now that he'd seen one, it was certainly a well-deserved reputation.

Ao Jian Cheng was at the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and to be able to rise above hundreds of those with the same cultivation, his battle prowess had to have surpassed nine stars.

Ling Han never underestimated himself, but his battle prowess now was only at nine stars at the Spiritual Ocean Tier. Unless he used the Demon Birth Sword, that is—then his battle prowess could certainly increase by a few stars; after all, it was a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool.

But, using the Demon Birth Sword in front of so many of the Winter Moon Sect's people? Not only would he be unable to get the Thunder Battle Armor, he also would have the Demon Birth Sword taken away... unless he hid inside the Black Tower.

In any case, he definitely wouldn't get the Thunder Battle Armor.

This was contrary to his plans.

Fortunately he already obtained the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf and digested the benefits. After compacting his last fundamentals, he would be able to charge into the Spiritual Ocean Tier. Other people who wanted to charge into the Spiritual Ocean Tier could only dream if they didn't have a few months' time, but for Ling Han, one to two hours was enough.

...Even Feng Yan used only less than ten days' time, could he be inferior to Feng Yan?

Speaking of Feng Yan, this guy should've already returned to the Winter Moon Sect, and with the Winter Moon Sect's ability, they could probably get him a prosthetic. Would he also attend this exam? After all, not to mention other people, this Thunder Battle

Armor would move him as well.

Ling Han nodded inwardly. He definitely had to break through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier, or else, continually beating opponents at the Spiritual Ocean Tier with the cultivation of the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier would inevitably cause suspicions.

However, he first had to recover his power.

Pa, pa, pa , with a thought, a piece of Origin Crystal instantly shattered and intense Origin Power surged out, surrounding Ling Han.

Inside the Black Tower, Ling Han could do whatever he wanted.

Instantly, Origin Power seeped into his skin, and after only a little "processing" from the Spirit Base, this Origin Power would be completely available for his use. This was why Origin Crystals could become the holy item of cultivating—it was easily absorbed.

Unfortunately, it required one's complete concentration to be refined, and couldn't be used during battle. Thus, speaking of recovering in battle, one had to rely on medicinal pills, but for cultivating, normally, Origin Crystals and medicinal pills worked both.

One Origin crystal needed a Spiritual Ocean Tier warrior spending an entire month to refine it, so the Origin Power within was abundant enough that, after refining this piece of Origin Crystal, Ling Han's strength was entirely recovered.

However, he lost quite a lot of blood; even if he ate several hundred year old ginsengs, he couldn't immediately recover it all. His expression was somewhat pale, but under the disguise, it was hard to tell.

He exited the Black Tower. The Nine-Eyed Beast wolf was already in his pocket and wouldn't leave his grasp no matter how hard it struggled. He now had to find Qi Yong Ye and the others.

Although he didn't care about the Yellow Dragon Fruit, he

naturally wouldn't give up what should belong to him. Moreover, he wanted to relieve Qi Yong Ye and the others, telling them that he was still alive.

After he received the Yellow Dragon Fruit, he would find an excuse to leave to charge into the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and there should still be enough time for him to collect tokens. If he didn't even make it into top hundred, then that would be really amusing.

He walked towards the place which they agreed upon, and very soon arrived there. However, before he'd gotten close, he heard ping, ping, pang, pang—they were sounds of weapons clashing—and indistinct shouts of indignation.

Could it be an internal conflict because of the Yellow Dragon Fruit?

Ling Han frowned and leapt upwards, appearing on top of a tree. Looking downwards, it looked practically like hell on Earth.

On the ground lay at least ten corpses—severed heads, cut intestines, chests torn open... too horrible to look at. And these people... were ones from the Rain country, with only a few still alive. They were now lingering with one last breath of life, being attacked from all sides by seven people; they could die at any time.

Ling Han's gaze swept by. Of those he knew, several had died—such as Li Dong Yue, Xia Chong Guang, Huang Wei Ze. Those who weren't dead were Qi Yong Ye, Baili Teng Yun, and a few others, riddled with scars and barely surviving by relying on their Spirit Tools.

There were only seven people in the other party, but six were in the late stage of the Gushing Spring Tier, and one was even at the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier—it was precisely because of his existence that Zhao Huan, Qian Wu Yong, and Hu Feng Yue, the three of the best, were completely suppressed, forming a one-sided slaughter.

"Ga, ga, ga 1, you refused a toast only to drink a forfeit, so all of you go to hell!" Zhan Yuan laughed coldly. He multitasked, not only suppressing the three in the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, but also blocking those who sought to escape the battlefield.

"You guys will die a painful death!" QI Yong Ye said with his teeth clenched as blood dripped down his eyes.

"Hmph, cursing belongs only to the weak—a useless groan. You guys aren't the first to be annihilated by me, and won't be the last!" Zhan Yuan said coldly, without any pity.

Ling Han's forefinger twitched, signaling that he harbored killing intent.

"I heard that in the Rain Country, there's a person called Ling Han who's very arrogant, daring to harm one of our sect's eldest chief's disciple?" Zhan Yuan said like a cat toying with a mouse. In reality, there weren't many who died in his hands, but he achieved the essential result.

"Hmph, if Ling Han were here now, you guys would be cruelly killed!" Zhao Huan yelled out.

"Haha, a bunch of frogs at the bottom of a well dare to speak conceited nonsense. What genius could come out of a mere small country of the Desolate North?" Zhao Yuan smiled haughtily. "Some time later, I'll go to the Desolate North, murder that Ling Han or whatever, and carry his head back!"

"Senior Brother Zhan is most imposing!"

"Hehe, maybe Elder Chief Shi would be in good spirits and take Senior Brother Zhan as a disciple!"

"Then we'd have to rely on Senior Brother Zhan's guidance and support."

The other six boot-licked one after another.

Zhao Yuan laughed aloud, appearing self-satisfied.

"Bullsh!t, Ling Han is already an Earth Grade alchemist, the Winter Moon Sect's sect master wouldn't dare touch him, let alone you! Besides, with Ling Han's strength, killing you is as easy as killing livestock!" Qian Wu Yong shouted sharply.

"Earth Grade alchemist?" Zhan Yuan was startled momentarily, then burst into laughter. What a joke, an Earth Grade alchemy master could rise up from the tiny Nine Nations of the Desolate North? These country bumpkins were truly idiotic, dreaming right before their death.

"What's so funny, let me have a laugh too." A cold voice sounded as Ling Han appeared on the field, both hands behind his back, his gaze baleful.

"Hu Yan!" Qi Yong Ye and the others cried out one after another. First was exultation that this guy was actually alive after luring away the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf, but then came worry, immediately leading to a change in their expressions; a mere youth at the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier couldn't do much—they were still destined to be slaughtered, weren't they?

Not everyone was a freak like Ling Han.

"Oh, another one that has come to die?" Zhan Yuan sneered, snapping his fingers. "Junior Brother Tu, kill him!" It was just a mere small fry at the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier.

"Yes!" A youngster jumped out, and revealed a vile smile. "Remember, the one who killed you is called Yu Gang Liang!"

"A mere dreg, stop with all the rubbish!" Ling Han raised his legs, and with a pa , the kick hit the other's chest. Under the power's shock, that person was immediately sent flying, and as he floated in midair, with a pa , his entire body imploded.

'Hiss.' In an instant, the entire place was silent, and everyone involuntarily stopped what they were doing.

Chapter 330: Completely Exterminated

Honestly, the one called Yu Gang Liang was only in the seventh layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, not very strong; but even if he wasn't that strong, the seventh layer of the Gushing Spring Tier's battle prowess was enough to crush the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier by tenfold. However, he exploded from a kick—how was anyone supposed to accept this?

"This is called Wind God Kick." Ling Han randomly came up with a name. He didn't use his sword nor fists or palms only because he didn't want Qi Yong Ye and the others to be suspicious of his identity. But how many Gushing Spring Tier warriorss like this were there? It was practically impossible not to be suspicious; Qi Yong Ye and the others' eyes already lit up.

"C-courting death!" Zhan Yuan was infuriated, and yelled, "Go all together, and slaughter him! Slaughter him!"

This was supposed to be their hunt but one of them was killed, how could he not be infuriated.

The remaining five charged at the same time. Their cultivation was higher than Xu Gang Lian's, and even if they couldn't annihilate Ling Han five against one, it shouldn't be a problem to fight on par.

However, they were up against Ling Han!

"Wind God Kick!" Ling Han sprung out, pa, pa, pa, throwing kicks continuously.

Comprehension of one law meant comprehension of all other laws in martial arts. He already cultivated seven flashes of Sword Qi on the sword's path, so as he flicked his legs, a flash of Qi fired out, turning into a sharp sword and sweeping towards the five people.

Every movement was a sword.

His battle prowess now was enough to annihilate a normal opponent at the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, so how could these five people rival him? Pa , his kick landed between the legs of one of them and powerful Qi rose upwards, turning into a sharp sword and tearing that person in half!

Hua la la , intestines, heart, liver, and brains spilled everywhere—an extremely gruesome sight.

Even Ling Han didn't expect that his kick would fire out Sword Qi, having such an effect. But this explained that he was somewhat accomplished on the sword's path, able to turn his body into a sword, forming swords in all ways.

Pa, pa, pa, pa , Ling Han threw four consecutive kicks, and four more corpses that were completely indistinguishable lay on the ground.

Everyone felt chills. Those were five late stage Gushing Spring Tier experts, but they were almost all killed instantly at the same time. How could anyone believe it?

Zhao Huan and the others thought: could this guy really be Ling Han? Although he looked completely different, there couldn't be so many freaks at the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier in the world!

Ling Han looked balefully at Zhan Yuan and said, "Now it's your turn."

Zhan Yuan instinctively felt a chill from Ling Han's gaze. Just what kind of gaze was it that could make him tremble from the bottom of his heart, as if his soul was frightened? He hurriedly encouraged himself: this was only a small fry in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier—although his battle prowess was somewhat nature-defying, but no matter what, it was impossible for it to reach all the way over the Spiritual Ocean Tier threshold. Or else, wouldn't the martial arts tiers be just for looks?

"Daring to kill Winter Moon Sect's disciples, you're seeking your own death!" he bellowed, initiating an attack.

"Those who murder will also be murdered by others, how can you guys be the exception?" Ling Han threw another explosive kick. Pu , the kick undoubtedly broke through Zhan Yuan's defense, landing fiercely on his face.

Zhan Yuan instantly staggered backwards, but in a few steps, pa , his head instantly exploded. The headless body swayed for a while, finally falling loudly onto the ground.

Qi Yong Ye and the others were already stupefied. Zhan Yuan and the other six killed from hundred till there were only twenty left, but once Ling Han attacked, he annihilated the seven in a clean sweep—just how great was the difference between the two parties?

"Ling... Master Ling?" Zhao Huan asked tentatively.

Ling Han glared at him and said, "What Master Ling, where's my Yellow Dragon Fruit. You guys couldn't possibly be thinking of swallowing up my share, right?"

Zhao Huan hurriedly took out the Yellow Dragon Fruit, handing over the entire stalk, and said, "Please receive it, sir!"

Seeing that Ling Han didn't admit his identity, he didn't dare to acknowledge him carelessly—he could only address him respectfully.

Ling Han took away half the Yellow Dragon Fruits. With his contributions, even taking away ninety percent was reasonable. Moreover, he just saved these people and his martial arts abilities were laid bare, so even if he took all of them, Qi Yong Ye and the others would only be able to nod.

Meeting acquaintances, Ling Han naturally wouldn't take all the gains. Leaving them half, he said, "I'm taking half, you guys don't have any objections, right?"

"No!" They hurriedly shook their heads like rattle drums.

Ling Han left half the Yellow Dragon Fruits; the rest he stored inside the Black Tower. He was about to leave to charge towards the Spiritual Ocean Tier, but frowned, turning to look to the left side.

Xiu, xiu , two figures appeared almost at one step after the other. They were precisely Ao Jian Cheng and the purple-clothed youngster.

"Interesting." Ao Jian Cheng had both hands behind his back. His gaze swept past Zhao Huan who hadn't stored the Yellow Dragon Fruit as he said, "Huh, it's actually the Yellow Dragon Fruit, no wonder it triggered a battle. Honestly, even I'm a bit moved."

"What? Senior Brother Jian Cheng, this is our sect's disciple." The purple-clothed youngster looked at the ground for a while, his gaze locked onto a sleeve—it had traces of blood on it, but a moon design could still be seen underneath.

Ao Jian Cheng immediately revealed killing intent, and said threateningly, "You guys have such great nerve, daring to slaughter our sect's disciples!"

"Hmph, they coveted our things and wanted to kill and rob us, so were we supposed to stretch our necks and await death?" Zhao Huan said, unwilling to give in. In the Rain Country, he was the prodigy of one of the eight large noble families, but here he suffered threats on his life repeatedly; it was a truly great contrast.

"The people are already dead, and you guys can say whatever you want," the purple-clothed youngster said coldly, "I can say that you guys killed and robbed this sect's disciple, yet still tried to put the blame on them."

"Put down the Yellow Dragon Fruit and take your own life!" he said haughtily.

Qi Yong Ye and the others were angered half to death; could they be more unreasonable?

"When all is said, you guys simply set your eyes on the Yellow Dragon Fruit." Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "You guys go first, leave this to me."

"You...!" Qi Yong Ye and the others hesitated.

"You guys still don't believe me?" Ling Han raised his eyebrows with soaring confidence.

"Go!" Qi Yong Ye and the others originally suspected that he was Ling Han, and now they no longer doubted it, turning one after another to leave. Staying here, they would not only be unable to help Ling Han, but instead become a hindrance.

"You talk quite big!" The purple-yellowed youngster laughed grimly—a mere small fry at the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier dared to speak of blocking them? Where did he get such courage? He immediately leapt out, wanting to block Qi Yong Ye and the others.

Ling Han also moved, unleashing a metal sword. With a shua , Sword Qi flew out.

The purple-clothed youngster was forced to stop and reached to wipe the wound on his cheek slit open by Sword Qi. He couldn't help but be infuriated, and said, "Damn it, you dare hurt me!"

"So what?" Ling Han said indifferently.

"Die!" The purple-clothed youngster dove out again, but this time, his target was Ling Han. As he stretched his arms and legs, martial intent flowed; his battle prowess was extremely shocking, at least ten stars.

Possessing battle prowess that surpassed one's tier by three stars in the Spiritual Ocean Tier was very remarkable.

Ling Han didn't dare to be careless. Ding, ding, ding, ding, the long sword danced rapidly, Sword Qi surged through the sky, and Four Seasons Sword Technique followed his will smoothly as he battled fiercely with the purple-clothed youngster.

Chapter 331: Preparing to Breakthrough

Ling Han was very freakish, but the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier was a shortcoming after all. His battle prowess could rival nine stars in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, but encountering the ten-starred purple-clothed youngster, he was still the side weaker by a level.

Within a few moves, he was at a disadvantage, only guarding.

However, this still stupefied Jian Ao Cheng and the purple-clothed youngster.

Since when could first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier's be this ferocious?

In Jian Ao cheng's eyes, killing intent was burning. If such a freak raised his cultivation to the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, wouldn't he be able to instantly kill him? No, such a prodigy had to be quickly eradicated.

He liked to battle prodigies because the feeling of crushing prodigies was extremely pleasant—definitely not because he could lose.

The purple-clothed youngster roared repeatedly, one move more vicious than the previous, but Ling Han's battle prowess was only weaker than him by one star; how could he possibly take Ling Han down by exerting a bit more strength? Besides, Ling Han still had too many trump cards that he hadn't revealed.

If possible, Ling Han truly wanted to slaughter Ao Jian Cheng. He should be one of Ao Feng's cherished children, and killing him would definitely make Ao Feng feel distressed for a while. However, Ling Han felt that a mental spirit always followed Ao Jian Cheng.

That formidable Winter Moon Sect's cultivator was paying close attention to Ao Jian Cheng at every moment, and the instant Ling

Han unleashed the Demon Birth Sword, it would definitely draw that person over.

Ling Han shook his head. He could only contend relying on his own strength.

"I underestimated you!" The purple-clothed youngster stopped, but did not to stop the battle. He took out a sword behind his back that gleamed like autumn water. On the blade were lines of fabric patterns, totaling nine; it was a Spirit Tool.

"Resuscitate!" He shouted lightly. Weng, weng, weng, the lines of fabric on the blade were activated one by one, glowing; however, only eight were lit up, the ninth line of fabric refusing to work.

"Making me use Long Brow Sword, you can feel proud even when you die!" The purple-clothed youngster smiled with air of arrogance, leaping out with his sword and slashing towards Ling Han. Hu , the Spirit Tool split apart the air and four flashes of Sword Qi danced all together, extremely scary.

Ling Han frowned momentarily, then just turned to run without saying another word.

If he wanted to beat the purple-clothed youngster, he had to use the Demon Birth Sword and the Mysterious Three Thousand. However, once the Demon Birth Sword was used, under the sensitivity of the Qi, the divine sense on Ao Jian Cheng would definitely realize.

That couldn't happen!

Once he charged into the Spiritual Ocean Tier, his strength would have a shocking surge. Why was it necessary to fight desperately here?

"You want to run?" The purple-clothed youngster snorted, hurriedly breaking into pursuit.

Ao Jian Cheng displayed his movement technique and followed behind. Ling Han was too freakish—if such a prodigy wasn't

quickly eliminated, it simply would make him unable to rest or eat in peace.

However, who would be able to catch up to Ling Han who used Shadow Wind Movement Technique once he activated it?

Hu Niu was one, but for the Spiritual Ocean Tier practitioners, one had to be naturally gifted with movement techniques or have related bloodline abilities; otherwise, if they said they wanted to catch up to Ling Han who used the Shadow Wind Movement Technique, they didn't really mean it.

However, after running for a few minutes, the difference between the two was pulled apart by a whole lot. Ao Jian Cheng took over the purple-clothed youngster, but the distance between them and Ling Han was still widening.

After chasing for a few more minutes, Ao Jian Cheng could only stop with disappointment, for Ling Han already disappeared from his field of vision.

He couldn't help but harbor resentment; he should've personally attacked earlier, dealing Ling Han a fatal blow and giving him no chance to escape! But who would've thought that he who was in the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier not only had nature-defying battle prowess, but also speed that could make others gape.

...He hadn't witnessed Hu Niu's speed, or else he'd definitely suffer a mental breakdown.

"Senior Brother Jian Cheng, did you kill..." The purple-clothed youngster arrived, and thought to ask Ao Jian Cheng whether he'd killed Ling Han, but as soon as he spoke, he knew something was off; Ao Jian Cheng's expression was quite unsightly.

"Hmph!" Ao Jian Cheng's expression was full of killing intent. He swore he definitely wouldn't let Ling Han off the next time.

After Ling Han ran for a while, his figure flashed and entered the

Black Tower.

It was time to break through.

Once he stepped into the Spiritual Ocean Tier, he'd sweep across the desolate lands. So what if there was someone in the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, he couldn't destroy them without using the Demon Birth Sword.

The Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf was still alive, but heavily injured. It woke up and immediately bared its teeth, roaring angrily and revealing its viciousness.

"Still vicious?" Ling Han hurled a slap and the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf was instantly shocked to death. He waved his hand, and the beast wolf's blood was completely extracted, adhering to his body.

Several drops of blood were actually silver, as if mercury condensed into a ball.

This was Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf's blood essence, and the sign of a king; there were only a few drops. Don't be bitter about the small amount—only after reaching the Shattering Void Tier would one's blood turn fully silver, and flinging one drop of it could kill someone in the Flower Blossom Tier.

Ling Han absorbed the essence, turning it into vigor that nourished his body.

The blood was drying up at a rapid pace, turning into a scab stuck on his skin. The color of it was extremely light as the essence within had all been absorbed.

Ling Han felt like his body was going to burst. Absorbing the blood essence of a beast king at the Spiritual Ocean Tier was greatly beneficial to him.

However, this wasn't enough!

Ling Han waved his hand again; the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf instantly broke into parts, each bone separated, fluttering midair.

One drop of white bone marrow immediately emerged from the bone.

Blood and bone marrow were the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf's true essence.

Normally, the bones needed to be continuously boiled and simmered for at least a day and a night before the bone marrow could become soup; however, inside the Black Tower, there was no need for such trouble. Ling Han only had to raise his hand to do it.

He opened his mouth. Xiu, xiu, xiu, the bone marrow's essence instantly flew into his mouth and was swallowed by him.

Weng , the Five Elements Chaos Lotus vibrated slightly as Origin Power flowed violently inside, sending the bone marrow's essence to every corner of his body and strengthening his bones and muscles.

"More spirit medicine!" Ling Han waved his hand; stalk after stalk of spirit medicine was pulled from the ground, lining up in front of him.

He chose some spirit medicine that strengthened his physique and compacted his origin from the spirit medicines he harvested at the Devil Sky Mystery Realm and the Winter Moon Sect's medicinal garden. He pressed with his right hand and the liquid medicinal essence was instantly extracted.

Ling Han opened his mouth and swallowed like a whale.

Hong , his entire being was like it turned into a pill furnace. Inside his body were several types of spirit medicine and the Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf's bone marrow and blood. He turned his body into a pill furnace, refining these essences and nourishing his body.

He felt as if he would soon explode.

'It wasn't enough, it hadn't reached the limit,' Ling Han thought to himself. He would break through at the instant his body reached the limit, compacting his fundamentals to an unshakable degree.

Hong, hong, hong , wave after wave of energy detonated inside Ling Han's body. His skin cracked and streams of blood poured out, but his eyes were still shining; he almost touched the door of the extreme.

Pa, pa, pa, his skin continued to crack open. Even the Rock Cliff Body couldn't tolerate the violent energy wreaking havoc inside his body.

At this moment...!

Chapter 332: Two Spiritual Oceans!

Hong.

Inside Ling Han's body, an earthshaking change happened.

His muscles, bones, and veins were becoming stronger, breaking through the Rock Cliff Body's limits and bringing it up a level. This wasn't the Indestructible Heaven Scroll's contribution, but a breakthrough acquired from him pushing his own body.

Such a great change didn't occur on his body alone, but also in his dantian.

He had fused nine nuclei long ago, and turned nine spring's eyes into one—the most important step in breaking through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier. His spring's eye was surprisingly large, as if a great lake, and now it was super-spring's eye that was expanding at the rate of a tsunami.

Forming an ocean!

Hong long long , the spring's eye burst out a surprising amount of Origin Power. If Ling Han used his divine sense turned into a human figure for comparison, the spring's eye had already become a vast body of water, so extensive that the end couldn't be seen.

Hiss, this could already rival the spiritual ocean in his previous life when he was at the peak of the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, but now he just broke through and the Spiritual Ocean was still expanding at a fast pace, far from reaching the early stage of the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Truly astounding.

This process for Ling Han was following a beaten path. Tidal wave after tidal wave, the spiritual spring turned into an ocean, massive and boundless.

After whole three hours, the spiritual ocean's expansion finally

stopped. However, as Ling Han thought he'd smoothly advanced, a tide suddenly rose and the spiritual ocean transformed again, beginning to split!

'Sh!t, what's this situation?'

At Gushing Spring Tier, he only had one super-sized spring's eye, but others had nine. And now, others fused nine springs into one, turning into one spiritual ocean. Could he be the opposite, possessing nine spiritual oceans?

Fortunately, his spiritual ocean only split into two, and no longer continued to divide.

Two spiritual oceans!

One on top, and the other on the bottom, as if heaven and earth. Moreover, one spiritual ocean swirled clockwise, while the other rotated counter-clockwise, like the yin-yang fish in the diagram of cosmological scheme.

Ling Han was driven mad. After crossing into the Element Gathering Tier in this lifetime, everything was different.

Other people's origin nucleus was singular, but he had five small origin nuclei combined. Other people's nine spring's eye, while he had one. Other people had one spiritual ocean, yet he had two.

Holy crap!

However, the real change probably happened when he was at the ninth layer of the Element Gathering Tier when he fused nine origin nuclei, which now emerged as an intrinsic change. After all, having small origin nuclei, it could be done as long as one had multi-element spirit base.

Nine nuclei fused into one—this was probably unprecedented, at least according to what Ling Han knew in two lifetimes. Another like this had yet to appear in the world, so his path of cultivation that followed might bring him many surprises.

Very soon, the two spiritual oceans finished expanding, completely stabilizing, which meant that he truly crossed into the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Ling Han was shocked, because his spiritual ocean now was ten times as big as the one in his previous life.

With a thought, the spiritual ocean raised in a wave as Origin Power swept past, surging violently.

He casually threw a punch, sensing the power within. He nodded; his power could now rival the seventh layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier!

This was extremely scary. Just stepping into the Spiritual Ocean Tier, his power could rival the late stage Spiritual Ocean Tier warriors, so when he reached the peak stage of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, would it be possible for him to battle those in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier?

...Relying on his own power, and not with the help of the Demon Birth Sword.

This was very much possible; even though the higher the tier in martial arts, the larger each step, he compacted his foundation too sturdily, allowing him to possess extraordinary tier-surpassing battle abilities.

"This time, fighting Ao Jian Cheng again, I can beat him bare-handed till he calls his ancestors!" Ling Han smiled faintly. "However, I still don't want to expose my identity. I have to infiltrate the Winter Moon Sect to find out mother's whereabouts, so it's best not to use a sword.

Fist techniques? Palm techniques? Or, leg techniques?

Ah, got one, it's Na Lan Tu's War Elephant Fist—the one I requested when he asked me to refine pills. It's said to be quite a special Black Grade technique, which Gushing Spring Tier martial artists can't cultivate as they're one Tier too low to manifest

martial intent.

It'd be nice if this fist technique is like the Mysterious Three Thousand.

However, Na Tu Lan didn't have a stinky face as if his parents had died like the one Sword Emperor had when he handed it over. I guess I'll be disappointed."

Ling Han turned over the War Elephant Fist inside his consciousness, as he said, "Small Tower, can the second layer be opened now?"

The Small Tower's figure surfaced; it paused slightly, seeming to attempt it, and then it immediately swayed left to right as if it was shaking its head. "No, you're not strong enough right now!"

"Hey, hey, hey, I am now in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and counting upwards, the Spiritual Pedestal, the Flower Blossom, the Spiritual Infant, the Deity Transformation, the Heaven, and the Shattering Void Tiers, a total of six more steps left. Even if I could open one layer every time I advanced, then when I become god, I can still only open up the eight layer, meaning... god realm also has level differences!" Ling Han inferred.

This was counting closely. If, by any chance, he needed two or three Tiers before he could open a layer of the Black Tower, then just how many stages was god tier divided into?

Small Tower was silent. Its intellect was limited—or maybe it was because it was damaged too heavily, affecting its intelligence?—at any rate, it was unable to respond to questions out of its range.

Ling Han sighed. It made sense—Black Tower was undoubtedly a product of the god realm and its original owner definitely died, while the tool's spirit was annihilated as well, rebirthing as another one. This explained that even gods were divided into the weak and the strong—dividing them into levels would naturally be normal.

Interesting, interesting, so following this line of thought, alchemy doesn't end at the Heaven Tier?

Ling Han revealed a smile. He was enthralled by alchemy in his previous life and this life he focused on martial arts, but that didn't mean he no longer had interest in alchemy. He had already gone to the extremes in alchemy and could no longer advance any further.

But in reality, alchemy was the same as martial arts—god tier was not the end; perhaps it was close, but definitely not the end.

He could explore alchemy again. This made Ling Han very happy, an excitement which he hadn't felt in a long time.

Whatever, first he'd practice that fist technique; there wasn't much time.

Inside the space of the Black Tower, he could use his abilities fully, grasping the slightest changes. This was clearly extremely helpful in practicing techniques.

However, he wasn't in too much of a rush, either.

Wanting to enter the top hundred in the exam, it wasn't that the more people he defeated, the better—it was enough to defeat those who had enough gains... If you beat ten thousand people, you can only gain ten thousand tokens, but if you beat one person who has defeated ten thousand opponents, then you can reap ten thousand and one tokens.

So, Winter Moon Sect's disciples actually weren't at all disadvantaged joining the exam on the third day.

Ling Han cultivated for an entire day, and after grasping the basics of the War Elephant Fist, he left the Black Tower. Now, it was time for him to fully display his capabilities. However, he disguised himself again because Qi Yong Ye and the others should've seen through the earlier identity; knowing his identity actually wasn't such a good thing for them.

He shuttled through the mountains, gaining quite a lot. At

nighttime, he raised a bonfire, grilling Nine-Eyed Beast Wolf's meat.

"Mm, smells good!"

"Really does smell good!"

A bunch of people rushed out from the forest; there were at least two hundred people

"Yo, brother Zhao, it's a guy all on his own!"

These people looked at Ling Han as if Ling Han was a course on their table.

Chapter 333: The War Elephant Fist

Before the exam started, many wealthy individuals were acquiring tokens and underlings all around. Ling Han had also been "harassed". While most people were all right after being rejected, they simply continued to search for the next person, since there were so many people here anyways.

However, there were always those who thought that the world should circle around them. After being rejected, they'd show a scowl, or even threaten to kill and whatnot. This youngster was one of those people; his name was Zhao Ri.

However, Ling Han disguised multiple times, so Zhao Ri naturally couldn't recognize Ling Han. Zhao Ri sniffed hard with his nose and set his eyes on the meat Ling Han was grilling, revealing a hungry look.

"Brother Zhao, this seems to be extremely high quality beast meat!" an underling said to Zhao Ri.

"Go get it for me," Zhao RI said. High level beast meat was greatly tonic, and for martial artists, it wasn't inferior to medicinal pills.

One underling immediately came over and yelled at Ling Han, "Damn brat, hand over the token, and you can get lost!"

Ling Han frowned and said, "If you don't want to die, get lost!"

"Haha, can't you see we have so many people?" The underling laughed grimly. Their collective strength was certainly not weak. They not only could overwhelm foes with numbers, but also had several late stage Gushing Spring Tier experts. Running rampant on their path gave them a burst of confidence.

"Hurry, this young master is hungry!" Zhao Ri urged from behind.

"Hmph, you're going to regret refusing me." The underling immediately threw a kick at Ling Han with vicious force; this was

not just kicking Ling Han aside—it would kick his brains out.

This exam didn't forbid them from killing, which seemed to have released many people's viciousness.

Ling Han's gaze turned cold. Slashing by with a finger, a chilling Sword Qi came out of thin air, and poof, fresh blood splattered—that person's leg was severed, flying in an arc and landing on the ground in front of Zhao Ri with a splat.

"Ah!" At this moment the underling realized what had happened. After being startled, he screamed tragically as tears and snot muddled his face. Forgetting to bind up the wound, the bleeding alone might kill.

"Impudence!"

"How dare you!"

"Courting death!"

A hundred people shouted angrily all together. Was there still order if a person on his own dared to act violently in front of them?

"Seems like you have some skill." Zhao Ri laughed coldly. "Brother Zhang, Brother Li, and Brother Ma, which one of you is willing to take down this brat?" he said to three youngsters with unordinary bearings.

These three people were all in the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, and the haughtiness on their faces was soaring through the sky.

In reality, descendants of large families aside, reaching the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier's under thirty in the north region was certainly very impressive, and could be called the finest. After all, there were only so many prodigies that crossed into the Spiritual Ocean Tier because of a fortuitous encounter, either eating a heavenly spirit fruit or taking a spirit pill passed down from ancient times.

The youngster surnamed Zhang took large strides over with a smile and said, "Leave a nobody like this to me, it'll save Brother Li and Brother Ma from dirtying your hands."

The other two laughed reservedly. The three's strength was more or less the same, so they were all unconvinced about each other. Each one wanted to earn the first place, so they would take turns to display their abilities when encountering situations like this.

"Brat, no need to tell me your name, and no need to tell me who's your backer. I don't care. Meeting me here is your greatest misfortune, so just blame your bad fate!" the youngster surnamed Zhang said arrogantly, throwing a punch towards Ling Han.

In order to display his abilities in front of Li and Ma, this punch was unleashed with all his might to kill Ling Han in a clean sweep... whoever could take care of their opponent the fastest would obviously be stronger.

Ling Han shook his head. Did these youngsters truly think they were the kings of the world, doing whatever they wanted? He snorted and threw a punch as well. War Elephant Fist activated, weng , vein-like lines unfolded, and from inside came a light-silver dragon elephant that emitted a great presence, trampling towards the youngster surnamed Zhang.

Pu! Pu!

Everyone spurted out at the same time—martial intent, that was martial intent! Martial intent manifested meant... the Spiritual Ocean Tier!

Sh!t!

Everyone's eyes suddenly popped out. Who would've thought an unprepossessing, eighteen-to nineteen-year-old youngster was actually a Spiritual Ocean Tier expert? Now they were done for, having kicked an iron plate.

Peng!

The dragon elephant ran over and the youngster surnamed Zhang was no more, trampled into a pile of mud.

Ling Han was amazed as it was his first time using the War Elephant Fist—he hadn't known of its power. The result was... it crushed an opponent in the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier into crumbs. Moreover, he only cultivated this fist technique for a day, and didn't truly grasp its essence.

A true War Elephant Fist fired out should be golden, and not light-silver.

However, cultivating it for a day's time to this degree was not bad, either.

Ling Han laughed. He wasn't overly critical of himself; he was a genius, but not a nature-defying genius—it was just that his luck was relatively better.

"S-s-sir!" Zhao Ri said whilst trembling. The Spiritual Ocean Tier warriors absolutely crushed the Gushing Spring Tier ones—even if they had had a hundred people here, it would not at all have been enough, not to mention there were only a dozen of them in the Gushing Spring Tier.

"Still want to eat meat?" Ling Han laughed gently, but seeing him crush the youngster surnamed Zhang into meat paste with a single punch, who would still feel Ling Han gentle and amiable?

The masses shook their heads all together, moving very orderly.

Ling Han nodded, and said, "Hand over your tokens, everyone can get lost except for Zhao Ri."

Everyone was as if they'd been granted amnesty, they hurriedly took out their tokens, placed them on the ground, and turned on their heels. If they lost the token, they could still rob more, but if their lives were gone, where would they find that?

Zhao Ri clenched his teeth, suddenly breaking into a run; he didn't want to wait helplessly for death.

As he turned around and stepped down with his right leg, he stepped on nothing as his entire person instantly fell towards the ground. It wasn't that a hole suddenly appeared on the ground or whatnot, but because his right leg had already been severed by Sword Qi, so he naturally stepped on nothing.

"Ah..." He instantly shouted tragically, struggling to prop his body up. As he sought help from his underlings, none looked twice, simply walking away rapidly with their heads down and making him instantly feel an intense chill.

"Don't kill me, I'm a clansman of the Zhao Family. My father is Zhao Ri Cheng, a formidable Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivator, and if he knew you killed me, he would definitely find you and kill you!" Zhao Ri could only turn his head to threaten Ling Han.

Ling Han smiled faintly and said, "Alright, I've remembered." He waved his hand and poof, Zhao Ri's head was cut off and spun a few circles on the ground, his eyes still filled with regret.

"My sword intent is too strong now. Clearly, when I throw a punch or a palm, it turns into Sword Qi. This way even if I use War Elephant Fist, people would still guess that I actually use a sword. Hmm, I need to adjust a bit," he muttered to himself. As for trash like Zhao Ri, he wouldn't care even if he killed ten thousand like him. He didn't know how many arrogant second-generations like this he killed in his previous life.

Chapter 334: Delivering Tokens

Ling Han walked through the mountains, walking along a narrow mountain path towards the Fallen Goose Valley. On the way, he encountered many battles, but he obviously quelled them easily with his strength.

If his opponent showed killing intent, he wouldn't hesitate to kill them, but if the other party simply wanted to rob, then he would give them a way out. After all, contending over tokens was the rule of the game, and not personal grievance.

Battle after battle, Ling Han finally suppressed his Sword Qi, forming Fist Qi once again.

Comprehension of a rule led to comprehension of all rules—the world martial arts was originally from one source.

Ling Han comprehended by analogy, thinking, 'I encountered a bottleneck in my cultivation of Sword Qi: from the fifth flash, it has been no longer smooth. In reality, the fifth one appeared because father was captured and I broke through the shackles under fury. The sixth one was formed through a discussion of sword path with Teacher Mo that led to enlightenment. The seventh one was also due to an explosion of emotions.

But, I can't always be accompanied by such overwhelming emotions, and I don't want to improve my sword intent through great sorrow since I can't always be so lucky that the people by my side are only ever injured and never die.

Since I've encountered a bottleneck with cultivating Sword Qi, it wouldn't hurt to try other arts and skills. Training the fist technique for such a short time, I can indistinctly feel some sort of resonance with the sword path. Perhaps improving War Elephant Fist to the highest tier can let me form the eighth flash of Sword Qi.'

On the third day, Winter Moon Sect's disciples officially joined the exam. Not many, only three hundred or so, but these people were all around twenty-five years old, and the weakest was in the Gushing Spring Tier. This was very shocking, disrupting the exam again.

Ling Han never met a rival and the tokens he gained reached ten thousand, yet the opponents he defeated were but seven hundred or so. As expected, robbing the right people brought more profits.

This already guaranteed his entry into the top hundred. Ling Han had no ambition to take the first place because there was no meaning in it as the top hundred all could enter the second round's exam.

The Fallen Goose Valley appeared. It was a natural death valley. Birds didn't fly past because there was often fiendish Qi that surged upwards from the bottom that even Flower Blossom Tier warriors feared. It was said the Winter Moon Sect once dispatched three Spiritual Infant Tier cultivators to investigate, but only two came out and both died soon after.

Ever since then, the Fallen Goose Valley became a restricted area that no one dared enter.

Ling Han and other examinees naturally didn't have to enter the Fallen Goose Valley, simply gathering at the outer perimeter of the valley. After people arrived, they delivered their tokens and registered their identities.

"Brother, Brother, got a question, how many tokens did you get?" After Ling Han walked into the safety area, a youngster twenty or so years old approached.

"Why should I tell you?" Ling Han replied with a question.

"Hehe, the truth is, of the ones that are coming here now, those in the top hundred have a least nine hundred tokens, so if you have less, why not sell the tokens to me? If you're way over that

amount, why not share some with me," the youngster said, grinning widely.

Ling Han laughed and said, "Not interested."

"Hey, hey, hey, we can discuss the price, don't go!" The youngster caught up, but Ling Han still ignored him, making him shake his head and going back to wait for those that came later.

Ling Han walked towards the token delivery point. At least a dozen people struck up a conversation to buy tokens from him, but he still ignored them.

When he reached the end, a tall platform was placed here, and those who returned had to walk up to deliver their tokens. Besides that, on the platform was stuck a large white paper, and on it were a hundred names, each name with a number behind it.

Obviously, it showed those in the top hundred and their scores.

Ling Han took a glance. As expected, the last place's score was in the nine hundreds, but this person would definitely be eliminated because there was still half a day's time before the exam was over; there were still large amounts of people that hadn't returned, and there would definitely be many whose score broke through one thousand.

He glanced but didn't find the names of the Zhao Huan and the other youngsters of the Nine Nations of the Desolate North. Perhaps they could advance into top ten thousand, but getting into top hundred was too difficult—unless their luck was especially good and they met pushovers all the time.

Even if they didn't enter top ten thousand, they still got plenty Yellow Dragon Fruit, so this trip wasn't for nothing.

He only discovered one familiar person: Sword of Justice Bai Ming, who now ranked second with a score of 11008. This score might only rank forty or fifty—even lower—but as long as one had ten thousand tokens, one could enter top hundred. What meaning

would it have to have more?

'He's a smart one.' Ling Han nodded.

He walked up to deliver his tokens. When he waved his right hand, a large amount of tokens was piled up on the table, stunning the person responsible for counting; who would've thought that an eighteen to nineteen year old youngster was actually so fierce.

Ling Han intentionally disguised himself as a bit older, or else a seventeen-year-old face would be even more shocking.

"Your score is 10086 pieces." The people responsible for counting were four Gushing Spring Tier warriors, so their speed was naturally fast. And on top of the platform sat a Spiritual Pedestal Tier practitioner, looking like he was resting with eyes closed and not caring, but with such an expert sitting there, who dared to mess around?

"Name, age, birthplace, and cultivation," a disciple asked, holding a book in his hands that had several names written on it.

He was responsible for recording the top hundred people's scores. Although the first round of exam wasn't over, those who broke through the score of 10000 were guaranteed to enter top hundred, the only question being what their rank would ultimately be.

Ling Han said, "Han Lin, nineteen years old, Fu Yun Mountain, the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier."

Han Lin was Ling Han backwards. A nineteen-year-old Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator was still surprising, but being "older" by two years was a lot better. Fu Yun Mountain was a small mountain in the north region that Ling Han had read about previously in a geographical record. He took it in passing, and because the vast lands experienced a great calamity in the past nine thousand years, many place names were changed; he couldn't rashly throw out a place name from his previous lifetime.

The four disciples were all surprised. Although the score of over

10000 tokens was impressive, it might've been partly luck, but being in the Spiritual Ocean Tier was certainly surprising; even the expert in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier who was resting couldn't help but open his eyes to size up Ling Han, nodding his head. He said, "Youngster, not bad! Quite impressive!"

Ling Han didn't make himself look too old, because his life force was too vigorous. If he really disguised as a twenty-four or twenty-five-year-old youth, old monsters at the Flower Blossom Tier would see through it with a single glance. If they associated him with one of the great thieves, then he would be in a pretty pickle.

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "Thank you, Senior, for your complement."

The Spiritual Pedestal Tier expert gave him a friendly smile, not daring to be arrogant. A nineteen years old Spiritual Ocean Tier cultivator was truly something surprising, and in days to come, Ling Han might become a Flower Blossom Tier, or even a Spiritual Infant Tier cultivator. Even if he couldn't be a friend of Ling Han, he definitely couldn't fall foul of him.

"This is your new token, you mustn't lose it." A disciple handed over a heavy black token; on it, the two words "Han Lin" were carved.

Chapter 335: The Seven Sons of Ao Family

Ling Han's score now ranked seventh, which looked high for now, but when everything ended, it might drop down to 40th or 50th place.

The top ten scores were all very close, differing only by a few hundred, or even a dozen points. Clearly, these were smart people; obtaining ten thousand tokens meant definitely entering top hundred, so what did it matter whether the rank was a bit lower or a bit higher?

The second round of the exam was the key, and it definitely checked one's power; they only had to give it their all on this stage.

Ling Han walked onto a large rock and sat cross-legged. As his right fist trembled lightly, he envisioned the War Elephant Fist; fist after fist circulated, and on his fists appeared indistinct luster of vein-like lines formed from martial intent.

Being idle, he might as well train—how could he waste time?

"Hmph, a mere small fry in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier dares to show off here!" A sharp voice sounded near Ling Han's ear.

Ling Han turned his head to see a lanky man looking at him with arms crossed; the fourth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier was quite an impressive cultivation for his age.

After all, the Spiritual Pedestal Tier warriors under thirty years old were still unheard of in the north region.

"Who do you think you are?" Ling Han said sullenly; he was disguised anyways, and under the condition of not revealing his trump card, he didn't want to tolerate anything one bit, acting completely arrogant and domineering.

The youngster snorted and said, "This young master is Yan Jun."

"Oh!" Ling Han suddenly realized. Yan Jun was originally ranked seventh and just happened to be pushed down by him, now ranking eight; however, there was no point to contend for rank in the first round and he ran over so early, so he shouldn't bother about ranking at all.

"In the next examination, I'll beat the sh!t of you!" Yan Jun said coldly. He certainly didn't care for this round's ranking earlier, but Ling Han was just too young, making him extremely envious. Moreover, Ling Han was only in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and being pushed down by such a person made him feel even more uncomfortable inside.

"Dumbass!" Ling Han sneered, paying him no more attention.

Yan Jun's eyes shot out flames of fury, but he forcefully suppressed it. He simply snorted; once the second examination began, he would definitely let Ling Han know the immensity of the world.

The start of this feud was certainly baffling.

Ling Han shook his head and continued to practice fist techniques. He now formed three flashes of Fist Qi, and if he broke through to form a fourth, his battle prowess would have a small but fundamental change.

It was already getting dark, a little more than four hours before midnight.

More and more people returned. Yang Chang, Si Qi Meng, Zhao Huan, Qi Yong Ye—those that Ling Han were familiar with or knew the names of appeared one after another. He swept a glance and saw Zhao Huan and the others with joyful expressions—looks like they had quite a good chance of squeezing into top ten thousand.

Ling Han's rank dropped all the way down as expected, and the first place already surged into a high point of twenty thousand; it

was no other than Yang Chong.

However, without a moment's time, he was pushed down, and the first place became Ao Feng Hang.

He ought to be one of the Seven Sons of Ao Family, but it was unknown which this one was. Ling Han laughed. Ao Feng had too many illegitimate children—he himself probably didn't remember them, let alone outsiders.

"Huh?" His gaze focused. He saw a fatty in the crowd, likely twenty-two or twenty-three years old. He was very unfamiliar to him, but thanks to that round physique, Ling Han could be sure that this guy was Ma Duo Bao.

His stature was quite the flaw; no matter how kickass the Disguise Pill, it still couldn't disguise him who was like a crane standing amongst chickens.

"Catch him!" As expected, if Ling Han could discover Ma Duo Bao, so could Winter Moon Sect's cultivators. Instantly, several Spiritual Pedestal Tier warriors leapt out from obscure corners, snatching at Ma Duo Bao.

"Tanned Brother, hope to see you again!" Ma Duo Bao immediately broke into a run and blinked in Ling Han's direction right before leaving.

The distance was large, but Ling Han was certain that Ma Duo Bao had discovered him.

Strange!

Ling Han was shocked, because he didn't have a special stature, and on top of the disguise, how did Ma Duo Bao recognize him? Could it be that those who thief had a special art of distinguishing people?

In spite of Ma Duo Bao being fat, his movement techniques were extremely quick. He was swimming through the crowd like a fish, and even the Spiritual Pedestal Tier pursuers didn't know how to

begin arresting him. They went further and further, and in a short moment, Ma Duo Bao had already ran into the dense forest.

Ling Han wasn't worried about that guy. His body was full of treasures, and even he couldn't see through his strength; Ma Duo Bao had enough ability to keep himself alive.

After Hu Niu and Yan Tian Zhao, there was yet another beast... Rong Huan Xuan had already become an old monster that shouldn't be counted.

The rankings continued to renew. More and more of the top ten were led by those surnamed Ao, and without mentioning, they were definitely the Seven Sons of Ao Family. This certainly explained the seven people's strengths that were quite out of the ordinary—so many of them reached top ten and none of them was thirty years old.

From this point, Ao Feng's talent should also be exceptional, or else he couldn't possibly have fathered so many prodigies—it was no wonder the Yue Family wanted to arrange a marriage with Ao Family back then.

When midnight came, the first round's exam ended; even if there were people who hadn't returned, their score wouldn't be counted.

Ling Han's ranking dropped into the forties, ranking forty-second, while first place was Ao Xing Lai who attained a shocking score of 30000.

"Top hundred, those who received the black metal token, follow me," a disciple said.

"Top ten thousand, still tallying, everyone be patient," another disciple said.

Ling Han got up and left the Falling Goose valley, following everyone to a mountaintop called Rising Sword Peak.

Yu Long Mountains were too large, so even with over twenty thousand people in the Winter Moon Sect, only seven

mountaintops were occupied. In terms of surface area, it was only one thousandth.

However, these seven mountaintops were abundant with spiritual Qi, a holy ground for cultivation. Comparatively, Rising Sword Peak's spiritual Qi quality ranked last; this was where the lowest level disciples lived.

Ling Han and the others had not officially joined the Winter Moon Sect, so they could only live here temporarily.

Amongst the top hundred, Winter Moon Sect's disciples took thirty spots, so two factions were naturally formed. The first night, a fight almost broke out, but fortunately, with a Spiritual Pedestal Tier warriors keeping watch, nothing big was stirred up in the end.

Ling Han looked around; the Seven Sons of Ao Family all reached the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier—quite out of the ordinary. Besides the seven, there were a few that showed extraordinary talent, not in the least inferior to that of the Seven Sons of Ao Family.

However, who was stronger would have to be decided in tomorrow's examination. Perhaps, Winter Moon Sect's disciples were all unconvinced with each other, wanting to come out as the top three amongst themselves.

This night was extremely unquiet, silent conflict was turbulent; but the second day, the sun still rose as usual. Ling Han entered the Black Tower at midnight and refined the Yellow Dragon Fruit into Return Spirit Fruit¹—he might as well not waste time.

A Spiritual Pedestal Tier expert appeared before long, urging everyone to wake up. Without letting them eat breakfast, he brought them to a large platform on the mountainside. White Ore paved these tiles here; hardness was one of its distinguishing features, even a Spiritual Pedestal Tier warrior's full-power attack wouldn't easily break them. It was most suitable for making a

battleground.

The true ranking battle was about to begin.

Chapter 336: Reexamination

"Time's limited, and you will all be this sect's disciples hereafter with many chances to spar, so today's reexamination will be carried out quickly," the Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivator spoke. He pointed at the plaza and continued, "Yesterday's ninety first to one hundred step forward, and line up on the field." Immediately, ten people stepped forward and stood separately on the field.

"Eighty first to ninety step forward," he said again, waiting for ten people to step forward, and continued, "You guys can pick one to challenge, the victor stays, and the loser gets eliminated. The battles begin now, but whether or not the battle ends, the second round of battles starts an hour later, and if the two people are still battling on the field, then both will be eliminated."

"Start!"

With that said, at least five people already started to fighting.

Rest was counted in the time of battle, with a total of one hour's time, so the faster one's opponent was taken care of, the more time one had to rest. Moreover, the order in which people took the field was a reward for those who scored well yesterday—the top ten could battle at their best in the final round.

Of course, a true expert would not care about that at all, having the confidence to easily overcome their opponents.

The battle soon became heated. If they lost in this round, they would be eliminated, so everyone fought with all their might; of course, if they didn't need to use their trump cards, they wouldn't. After all, if they wanted to advance into top ten, there were still many tough battles ahead.

Ten minutes later, the first battle was over, and another pair tangled for an hour without a victor; well, the two were both eliminated.

The seventy-first place to the eightieth place took the field, and the second round of battle started. A lucky fellow won without fighting, and could welcome the third round of battles in his peak form.

Round after round, each one an hour. This speed was very fast, and after four hours, it was Ling Han's turn.

"Huh?" Ling Han revealed an astounded expression, because his opponent was Zhao Hong Cheng; before the exam, he was the one who mocked Qi Yong Ye and others as narrow-minded, and also looked down completely on Ling Han.

What a coincidence that Ling Han actually bumped into him.

"Do you forfeit or should I beat you till you concede?" Zhao Hong Cheng said arrogantly.

Ling Han smiled and said, "We're both in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, where do get your confidence from?"

"Haha, from this!" Zhao Hong Cheng brandished his sword. It was an oddly shaped sword, with the tip split like a snake's tongue and an extremely thin fuller; seven vein-like lines could be seen on top of it.

"Silver Serpent Sword, Fourth Tier Spirit Tool! Under full activation, it can rival the battle prowess of one in the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier!" He circulated his spiritual Qi and began to activate the martial intent of the Spirit Tool. Instantly, the vein-like lines shone and the Spirit Tool emitted a strong presence.

In a sense, the Spirit Tool was equivalent to a cultivator of the same tier, and Zhao Hong Cheng himself was a Spiritual Ocean Tier warrior, which was enough to fully activate the Silver Serpent Sword's powers; therefore, it was now equivalent to two Spiritual Ocean Tier opponentss attacking Ling Han together. Moreover, Silver Serpent Sword's power was comparable to an opponent in the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, so no wonder Zhao Hong

Cheng would be full of confidence.

One in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and one in the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier—that meant there would be some chances of winning even if encountering an opponent in the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Zhao Hong Cheng never used the Silver Serpent Sword in the previous exam in order to surprise people at the next examination.

However, there was no rule in the tournament that one couldn't use Spirit Tools, so even if he won relying on the Silver Serpent Sword, at most people would only look down on him for not winning with his own skills.

Ling Han smiled faintly and said, "Should I reveal a sense of fear to coordinate with you?"

"Don't need to pretend, you're certainly feeling scared!" Zhao Hong Cheng charged out with his sword. Being at the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier while fully activating a fifth layer Spiritual Ocean Tier Spirit Tool was a great burden for him, so he hoped to take care of Ling Han as soon as possible, obtaining some time to recover.

Ling Han formed a fist and moved. Hong , martial intent circulated, and vein-like lines spread out as a silver-colored dragon elephant stepped through the air, charging at Zhao Hong Cheng.

Peng!

In a fierce clash, Zhao Hong Cheng backed up repeatedly, his expression extremely pale. The power in that attack was too heavy, shaking his internal organs such that he felt it extremely unbearable, almost spitting out blood.

"Huh!"

"What!?"

"Yikes!"

Seeing this scene, those who were originally absent-minded all revealed astounded expressions.

That this punch pushed back Zhao Hong Cheng wasn't a big deal as he was at the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier after all, but he held a Spirit Tool that was fully activated—now, that was weird.

"His battle prowess should be six stars." Many people evaluated.

This was very surprising; a first layer Spiritual Ocean Tier youth that had six stars battle prowess... that was very hard to believe.

"He should be wearing some sort of Spirit Tool that's already activated, otherwise... hehe, battle prowess surpassing five stars? Even amongst us not many can do it, right?" Someone immediately thought of a "reasonable" explanation.

Vambraces or leggings could be worn underneath clothes, so it would be very hard to discover them even when they were activated.

"There are still a few people with battle prowess surpassing five stars, but only Ao Da has six stars." Someone's gaze moved towards a twenty-two to twenty-three year old youngster; this person was Ao Da, whose real name was Ao Xing Lai.

The Seven Sons of Ao family's ranking was not based on age, but on ability.

Ao Xing Lai was Ao Feng's most remarkable son, with cultivation in the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier. It was said that he already had one foot in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and such talent could be called a prodigy even in the middle state—of course, not top-notch. At least in the north region, there were already Spiritual Pedestal Tier prodigies in this age segment.

Ao Xing Lai slightly raised the corner of his lips. He certainly didn't believe that Ling Han possessed battle prowess surpassing five stars, and even if it was so, it couldn't rival his; his battle

prowess fully unleashed could actually surpass seven stars!

His confidence not only came from being the head of the Seven Sons of Ao family and the Winter Moon Sect's number one genius, but also from being north region's number one prodigy. One day, he would enter the middle state and sweep across the prodigies there, casting down his legendary reputation that would go down in the annals of history.

"I! Don't! Believe!" Zhao Hong Cheng straightened his sword, charging right back. "I'm in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier and you too; we both have Spirit Tools as well. Could I be weaker than you!?"

He brandished the long sword and four flashes of Sword Qi were shot out.

'Four flashes of Sword Qi, not bad, not bad, he's got talent on the sword path.'

Ling Han fired a punch, also with four flashes of Fist Qi circulating, forming four golden fists that traveled towards Zhao Hong Cheng.

Peng, peng, peng, peng, Sword Qi and Fist Qi collided, annihilating one another.

"Ah!" Zhao Hong Cheng bellowed, brandishing his sword continuously. They were both in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, so even with a Spirit Tool in hand, their energy consumption was very great; he only had to last a little longer than Ling Han to win.

Ling Han's dantian space was a hundred times larger than a normal Spiritual Ocean Tier warrior's, and his spiritual ocean was also ten times larger; moreover, he had two that formed yin and yang, almost returning to the universe's origins.

Thus, he didn't hurry and just used his opponent to practice the War Elephant Fist.

Chapter 337: Polishing the Fist Technique

Inside Ling Han's body were two spiritual oceans, one on the bottom as earth, and one on top as heaven, symbolizing the yin and yang.

When he allocated his Origin Power, he could choose one of the two spiritual oceans, but if necessary, the two large spiritual oceans could both circulate at the same time. One yin and one yang, although opposites, it could give terrifying bursts of spiritual power, making his power skyrocket to the seventh layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Against a nobody like Zhao Hong Cheng, he naturally didn't have to use his full strength; the earth spiritual ocean circulating was enough of a power support.

He mainly experienced the subtle changes in the War Elephant Fist, improving upon his fist path.

All arts in the world aimed for the the same end, so if he could form seven flashes of Sword Qi, then it also meant he could reach seven flashes of Fist Qi. However, there had to be a process, and he was reducing that process now by battling Zhao Hong Cheng.

"Die! Die! Die!" Zhao Hong Cheng was as if he were in frenzy. Seeing that it was almost the time limit of an hour yet he was still tangling with Ling Han, he thought he and Ling Han would both be eliminated.

This enraged him beyond control as he felt that Ling Han was extremely detestable. Ling Han obviously couldn't beat him, but why must he continue to tangle with him?

"Die your sister!" Ling Han yelled out explosively as he threw a punch fiercely. Four flashes of Fist Qi set out, turning into four silver fists, which evolved into four dragon elephants that charged at Zhao Hong Cheng.

What!?

Everyone cried out—was this a breakthrough during the battle?

If it were true, then this guy was too scary; one who could turn pressure into motivation during battle to break through one's own limits was definitely a genius amongst geniuses.

"Impossible, this guy probably formed four flashes of Fist Qi long ago but avoided using it, and now unleashed it explosively to intentionally scare people."

"Hehe, he wants to make people think he broke through during battle to attract the sect's attention—what a truly deep scheme."

"Truly too naïve."

They all shook their heads. They were all conceited themselves, but such a breakthrough was impossible even for them, so they subconsciously thought it was fake; otherwise, wouldn't it be saying that they were inferior?

However, a few people were in deep thought—what if this was real?

Fortunately, there were only four flashes of Fist Qi, just entering the accomplished level and not yet qualified to be called a king.

Hong!

Four flashes of Fist Qi against three flashes were like a fourth layer's suppression against a third layer. There was still a great difference between the one who was at the middle stage and the one who was at the early stage; so, this punch rolled over, sending Zhao Hong Cheng flying along with his sword.

At this moment, it was roughly about an hour since the fight began.

The ten who ranked thirty or so had their sight on Ling Han. This guy just experienced a great "neck and neck" battle and had absolutely no time to recover, so if they could challenge Ling Han,

then it would be equivalent to fighting a pushover.

Zhao Hong Cheng lay on the ground, his face full of disbelief. He actually encountered an opponent that broke through during the battle.

"The top thirty, step forward!" the Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivator said. "Begin the next round."

Shua , a lithe and graceful girl was the fastest to arrive before Ling Han. She smiled enchantingly at the surrounding people as she said, "This little sister thanks every fellow brother for giving way."

This was a very beautiful girl, and on top of her alluring figure, people involuntarily looked twice. When she leapt out, she intentionally swung her hips and stuck her chest out and fully displayed her physique, making the other nine instinctively look toward her; that was how she ended up getting Ling Han, the "pushover."

The other nine cried out 'bad luck' inwardly—why did they harbor lust?

"Just admit defeat!" The girl attacked Ling Han.

She was stronger than Zhao Hong Cheng, at the third layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier. However, if she was only so good, then she naturally wouldn't rival Ling Han who possessed "battle prowess of six stars." Since she dared to challenge Ling Han, she obviously had something to rely on.

As she attacked, she unleashed an exquisite pagoda embodied by jade; flashes of vein-like lines shined, forming a visible wave that vibrated towards Ling Han.

Ling Han immediately felt Small Tower emit a thought of extreme disgust—this thought obviously wasn't directed at him but the exquisite pagoda. 'Heh, this Spirit Tool is quite interesting, can't stand other tower-shaped spirit tools?'

Weng , the wave was like a tidal wave, extremely tempestuous.

Ling Han threw out a blank punch and formed a vein-like line that expanded rapidly, as if a shield protecting him. The wave the exquisite pagoda emitted passed by, sending layers of ripples as the vein-like lines immediately showed several cracks.

When the shield was shattered, the exquisite pagoda's attack also ended.

The girl couldn't help but be surprised that power contained in Ling Han's punch was so accurately measured, not a single bit enough or too much—as if he'd fought her before. However, at this moment, it wasn't time for her to be shocked. She immediately shook the tower lightly, releasing a wave and drawing her sword to attack as she leapt outwards.

Xiu, xiu, xiu , four flashes of Sword Qi spread out, its power overwhelming.

As expected, she could come this far not because of the Spirit Tool's power, but because she personally possessed amazing strength.

Ling Han received her attack, continuing to use his opponent to practice War Elephant Fist.

"Hmm?"

Some people took notice of Ling Han and couldn't help but reveal shocked expressions—the girl's strength was obviously above Zhao Hong Cheng's, but Ling Han was still able to fight back and forth without falling at a disadvantage.

This meant that Ling Han held back his strength. Since that was so... could it possible be that Ling Han wasn't using his full strength right now?

"If he can advance into the next round, I'll pick him as my opponent," a man with an imposing appearance said. His cultivation of the eighth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier was quite

out of the ordinary.

"Haha, Senior Brother Yue's actually harboring the urge to battle a small fry in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier?" Someone laughed, but immediately revealed an expression of doubt. "Senior Brother Yue, aren't you thinking too highly of him?"

Senior Brother Yue revealed a smile, and fighting spirit flashed past his eyes. "No, no, no, my senses can't be wrong. This guy is worthy of a battle!"

"Tsk!" The Seven Sons of Ao Family snorted at the same time, appearing to think very much otherwise.

"Seven Sons of Ao Family, what are you snorting at, need a beating?" Senior Brother Yue looked over without hiding the scorn in his expression.

"You? A defeated opponent!" Ao Jian Cheng wagged his finger, appearing to think otherwise.

"Haha, Yue Kai Yu, whenever you can beat the seventh, then you can challenge the rest of us!" Ao Xing Lai said.

Ao Jian Cheng wasn't the youngest amongst the Seven Sons of Ao Family, but since his strength was the weakest, he ranked last. Hearing Ao Xing Lai's words, Ao Jian Cheng couldn't help but reveal a hint of anger; inside the Ao Family, competition was also fierce, and he was not resigned to sit at the seventh place.

Yue Kai Yu said, "Wait till I advance into the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, I will challenge each one of you!"

"You say it like you're very impressive." Ao Feng Hang picked his ears, and then blew at his finger, showing his disdain in overtones.

Chapter 338: Cousin

The Ao Family and the Yue Family had never got along, and the "older people" naturally knew why, but the newbies didn't understand. They only thought that elder chiefs, Ao and Yue, had differing views, which resulted in their juniors also being locked in a fierce struggle. However, they didn't know that it was because of the hatred between their children twenty years ago that made the two families that were supposed to become relatives stand on opposing sides.

But no matter how much they didn't get along, they wouldn't end up in a deadlock in public; after all, the two families each had one elder chief, but looking again at the two families' descendants, while there were certainly many incompetent people in the Ao Family, there had to be a few prodigies because Ao Feng left his seed everywhere and had so many children.

And the probability of it was somewhat surprising, since there were actually seven people, and each one was stronger than Yue Kai Yu; apparently, in the fight between the families' descendants, the Ao Family won, moreover with an overwhelming advantage.

If Ling Han knew, he would definitely sneer: 'Really? if every one of Ao Feng's sons died, then it would be useless no matter how talented they are'.

In the field, Ling Han's threw punches like the rain. His fists became faster and faster, and the fifth flash of Fist Qi was almost cultivated by him, just about to burst out.

This gave the girl an enormous amount of pressure; she was doing her best to set off the exquisite pagoda, but this was a Spirit Tool and its strongest power was only comparable to the seventh layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier—so how could it be of threat to Ling Han?

When one hour was almost up, Ling Han threw a heavy punch

and sent the girl flying with five flashes of Fist Qi.

Hiss!

This time, quite a few people were truly shocked. Even if Ling Han had already grasped five flashes of Fist Qi and concealed it earlier, that itself meant he was extraordinary. Besides, Ling Han clearly battled continuously for an hour earlier, and still persisted in a high intensity battle for another hour, such resilience was truly terrifying!

'This one shouldn't be underestimated.'

Ling Han stood tall, battling for two hours straight, but with his dantian and spiritual oceans' massiveness, such energy expenditure didn't even take up one hundredth of all his energy. Otherwise, he wouldn't battle in this way... tsk, he wasn't stupid.

"Twenty one to thirty step forward," the Spiritual Pedestal Tier warrior said in a tone that was calm and without emotion.

Yue Kai Yu took a sudden stride forward, arriving in front of Ling Han, and said, "You can now rest, and whenever you've recovered, we can battle."

As he said that, quite a few people insulted him, calling him an idiot.

Those who didn't take advantage where there was one were bastards! It involved the top ten spots, and even if they couldn't get the top one, they could still receive medicinal pills and whatnot as rewards; who wouldn't give it their all?

Was it because he was too strong that he had such confidence?

"Haha, he knows that he can't beat us the Seven Sons of Ao Family, so he might as well pretend to be generous. With us seven here, he can at most rank number eight anyways," Ao Jian said, showing his extreme disdain.

Because Spiritual Ocean Tier battles' destructive power was

extremely immense, everyone watched the battle from several hundred meters away. At this distance, and on top of all the noise of the battles, it was very hard to hear what they said.

So, Ling Han didn't know that the person in front of him was called Yue Kai Yu, and Yue Kai Yu couldn't hear Ao Jian's slander.

Just from those words alone, Ling Han had a favorable impression of Yue Kai Yu, cupping his hand in obeisance as he said, "Senior Brother, what should I call you?"

"Yue Kai Yu."

Ling Han was temporarily startled; surnamed Yue, could he be Yue Zhen Shan's son? He probed, "I wonder if you can tell me who Commander Yue, Yue Zhen Shan, is to Brother Yue?"

"He's my father." Yue Kai Yu didn't find it strange. He was Yue Zhen Shan's son, and all Winter Moon Sect's disciples would know such a matter—it wasn't some secret.

As expected, this was his elder cousin!

Ling Han laughed inside, and said inwardly, 'Oh, elder cousin, elder cousin, its' your old man's fault for not stopping Ao Feng back then, causing my family to be worlds apart. Today, I'll beat up this elder cousin and hang that old uncle and beat him, then this contradiction can be counted as cleared.'

A family had no overnight hatred.

This would seem to violate morals for most people—how could a nephew beat his uncle? But, the soul dominating this body was the Grandmaster of alchemy from ten millennia ago, and although he accepted his current identity, it didn't mean his every word and every action would be limited by this identity.

In a bad mood? Just vent that anger.

"No need to rest, let's fight!" Ling Han made a hooking motion with his fingers.

"I'm at the cultivation of the eighth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, with one foot already in the ninth layer. Moreover, I cultivate three high level Black Grade arts—if you don't adjust to your optimal status, you definitely won't stand more than a single exchange of blows!" Yue Kai Yu said, annoyed. "I want to defeat you at your best, and not just win!"

"Hehe, why must I satisfy you, who do you think you are?" Ling Han laughed aloud, charged outwards, and initiated the attack.

Yue Kai Yu snorted, throwing a casual punch. He wanted to let Ling Han know what disparity meant; then, he would give Ling Han time to rest so that they could fight as fair as possible.

Ling Han gave no sign of weakness, and greeted the attack with a punch.

Peng!

The two clashed once, and immediately, a visible shock wave rippled outwards. The pairs on the side were actually quite far away, but they were sent retreating continuously by this shock wave, staring aghast at them and caring no longer for their own battles.

"Huh?" Yue Kai Yu was shocked. The power of Ling Han's punch wasn't much weaker than his! He had the cultivation of the eighth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier with overbearing power, but he couldn't suppress a guy in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier; the Spirit Tool on his opponent had to be truly overpowered.

Ling Han smiled and said, "Senior Brother Yue, let me beat you up, then we can be friends hereafter."

There was subtext to his words; after we fight, we're all on the same side.

However, Yue Kai Yu didn't know who Ling Han was, and couldn't help but be angered. This guy actually wanted to beat him up? Too contemptible! Where did he get such courage and

confidence from?

He released a long cry and began his attacks on Ling Han. This time he was infuriated, using arts—both his fists instantly turned as dark as iron, the chilling metallic light on their surface.

As the punch was thrown, martial intent blossomed. On his right fist, vein-like lines immediately shined, forming an odd pattern that instantly extended to his entire arm, almost as if his entire right arm turned into a Spirit Tool.

With one punch thrown, even the air was pressuring Ling Han, forming visible hurricanes.

"Huh, that one surnamed Yue seemd to have greatly improved his fist techniques," Ao Jian Cheng said, frowning.

Ao Feng Hang nodded and said, "If his power increased another tier, he might actually be a threat to us."

Ao Xing Lai simply laughed arrogantly. His strength surpassed the rest of the seven by a whole lot. These six were truly narrow-minded, completely unaware of their own strengths, guessing presumptuously.

Chapter 339: Let's Be Friends

Ling Han stepped forward and battled Yue Kai Yu.

He also used the War Elephant Fist, without any intention of holding back. Five flashes of Fist Qi burst out; one punch could fire out four light-silver dragon elephants that emitted a primitive and desolate aura, charging towards Yue Kai Yu.

Dragon elephants were mythical beasts from the ancient times that completely disappeared many millennia ago, leaving behind only a legend. There was no doubt that the dragon elephant was strong, being able to topple mountains and overturn seas, even splitting open heaven and earth.

However, the true dragon elephant was entirely golden, and had the torso of a brute elephant. The power from curling its trunk could strangle even a true dragon to death! On the top of its head grew dragon horns that could support the skies, and its limbs were like the pillars of world that could suppress the earth.

The dragon elephant that Ling Han fired out was only light-silver in color, and only had the shape of a brute elephant without horns, so the power was naturally far from comparable to the real dragon elephant.

However, this also made Ling Han quite surprised. If this fist technique was developed to its limits and could form a true dragon elephant, then just how powerful would one punch be?

As expected, those six Heaven Tier warriors in his previous life all had surprising backgrounds; this fist technique was definitely not simple.

However, Ling Han had an indistinct feeling that the fist technique he received was not complete. If he continued to develop it, it could only reach Earth Grade, and wouldn't be able to become a Heaven Grade art, not to mention crossing into god grade.

From this perspective, Sword Emperor was the most practical; the Three Styles of Black Origin could be activated as long as one grasped Sword Qi, Sword Ray, or Sword Heart.

If Na Tu Lan also didn't die and entered god realm, then he would definitely beat him up if there would be a chance to in the future!

Hong!

As Ling Han pondered, his battle with Yue Kai Yu became more intense.

Yue Kai Yu was certainly beyond the norm with his cultivation of the eighth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, but his true battle prowess reached fourteen stars, possessing battle prowess surpassing six stars. ¹ This was very surprising, so even the expressions of the Seven Sons of Ao Family changed slightly.

Yue Kai Yu could now fight on par with the six of them and only Ao Xing Lai could easily win, but if Yue Kai Yu advanced into the ninth layer, then maybe even Ao Xing Lai could only share the limelight with him.

'Wrong, my battle prowess surpasses seven stars!' Ao Xing Lai said inwardly. His gaze swept by, appearing to show some disdain. Although these brothers stood side by side, his battle prowess was stronger by two stars, making him feel somewhat wronged.

The seven of them should be called one dragon and six tigers. His strength was much stronger—the six other brothers had no right to stand by his side!

But Ling Han was even more surprising.

If his opponent was weak, his performance was relatively mediocre, but if his opponent was strong, his battle prowess changed accordingly. Yue Kai Yu's battle prowess reached fourteen stars, but Ling Han completely kept up, without even a hint of falling at a disadvantage—how could anyone believe this?

Just how strong was this guy?

He was clearly in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, but also possessed battle prowess surpassing six stars, so his battle prowess should only be seven stars. How could he then rival Yue Kai Yu's fourteen stars of battle prowess? Could it be... the Spirit Tool on him could further increase battle prowess by seven stars?

Yue Kai Yu bellowed repeatedly. Whether Ling Han used a Spirit Tool or not, he, who was a dignified practitioner at the eight layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, still couldn't suppress Ling Han at the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier... it was a fact he couldn't accept at all.

He naturally had Spirit Tools, Spirit Talismans, and medicinal pills that could increase battle prowess for a short amount of time, but he was too proud; having such a great advantage in cultivation, he still needed to use external things like Spirit Tools?

Then what meaning would a victory—should he win—have? He would only lose face.

He held in his breath, and continued to exchange blows with Ling Han.

"Hye, hey, hey, that newbie this year is too strong, right? Even Senior Brother Yue can't suppress him. If both of them get eliminated, then that would be too hilarious," a Winter Moon Sect's disciple said.

"Wouldn't that be a good thing, another spot would be open."

"True. Of those under thirty years old, only the Seven Sons of Ao Family can suppress Senior Brother Yue."

"That guy there called Sword of Justice something is strong too. He's only at the seventh layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, but his battle prowess is at least twelve stars. Truly surprising."

"Didn't you guys hear Elder Chief Shi say that martial arts are in a super-golden age when prodigies are emerging without end, and perhaps there would be freaks in the future with battle prowess

surpassing ten stars?"

There were many discussions in the surrounding people, and as more and more people were eliminated, the remaining people were the more dazzling.

"Senior Brother Yue, thank you!" Ling Han suddenly said without rhyme or reason.

Yue Kai Yu completely had no idea what he was talking about, and just when he was about to snap back, Ling Han threw a punch with six flashes of Fist Qi advancing and turning into seven dragon elephants that charged at him.

'What!?'

He was greatly shocked that there were actually six flashes of Fist Qi. This was already the consummate of great mastery, almost crossing into the rank of kings.

This was too scary. He, too, only grasped six flashes of Fist Qi—the seventh flash was like a chasm, which he was stuck at for more than four years; he just couldn't cross into the king's realm of seven or more flashes.

This 'thank you' was because Ling Han quickly achieved a breakthrough under Yue Kai Yu's pressure.

Of course, the main reason was that he had originally grasped seven flashes of Sword Qi, or else no matter how much of a genius he was, he wouldn't be able to easily achieve a breakthrough.

With these six flashes of Fist Qi firing out, and on top of the War Elephant Fist, Ling Han gradually took the upper hand.

His power was originally no weaker than Yue Kai Yu's, and now he was no longer at a disadvantage in the amount of Fist Qi flashes. Moreover, his art was stronger than Yue Kai Yu's, and adding the discernment of a Heaven Tier on top of that, if he still couldn't take the upper hand, then he should really just find a block of tofu and knock himself to death.

Hong, hong, hong, he launched punch after punch like a barbarian from the wilderness, impervious to reason, simply throwing punches of iron to crush everything.

Flash after flash of martial intent exploded, its light dazzling.

Yue Kai Yu retreated repeatedly; with his current battle prowess, he was no longer a match for Ling Han.

He hesitated on whether or not he should unleash his Spirit Tool, because Ling Han 'apparently' used Spirit Tools. However, as he thought of the great advantage he had in tier, which was enough to compensate for this Spirit Tool, the two were fighting fairly. If he used a Spirit Tool, then it would not be the fair fight he'd sought.

Peng!

Without completing his train of thought, he took a heavy punch on the face and was instantly sent flying. He only felt numbness on a part of his face and a pungent taste in his throat. He opened his mouth and hacked out blood continuously, along with three broken teeth.

Ling Han leapt over and reached with his hand out toward Yue Kai Yu, smiling as he said, "We're even, and from now on we're fellow brothers!"

Yue Kai Yu only thought that "fellow brothers" meant senior or junior apprentice. He instinctively touched his cheek, and said, "You punched me so heavily and still think of becoming brothers with me?"

Ling Han smiled mischievously, took out a pill bottle, and said, "This is Return Origin Pill."

Yue Kai Yu's gaze instantly burned up with fervor. Return Origin Pill was the highest quality Fourth Tier medicinal pill. It couldn't improve cultivation and couldn't restore Origin Power—it had only one function: compacting one's tier!

Chapter 340: A True Tycoon

For a genius like Yue Kai Yu, the more solidly he compacted his foundation, the higher the tier he would be able to charge into in the future and the stronger his battle prowess compared to the same tier would be. Normal people were different—being able to break through was a great joy; they didn't care about the foundation and whatnot, prioritizing improving their tier.

If the foundation wasn't sturdy enough, then how high of a building could one build? When it reached a certain height, it would collapse!

Thus, the more talented one was, the less one would be in blind pursuit of improving tiers.

Amongst the seven Heaven Tier warriors in Ling Han's past, Ma Wei Yang was the typical case of a great talent that matured slowly. His aptitude was the worst amongst the seven and his every leap slower than the others', but at each and every step, he compacted his foundation extremely sturdily. No large tier ever posed a problem to him, and at last, he crossed into the Heaven Tier only ten years later than Sword Emperor and the rest.

It was clear just how important compacting the foundation was.

The problem lay in that that even though everyone knew that compacting it at each step was very important, just how should they do it? Relying on one's own efforts to solidify a tier to the extreme then breaking through needed at least a dozen years, or even more.

However, in case of those below the Flower Blossom Tier, they only had a hundred years or so of lifespan, so how could they have enough time?

Thus, it was obvious just how precious medicinal pills that compacted one's cultivation were.

First, such medicinal pills were hard to refine, and second, the original ingredients were too scarce; there was demand but no supply. Even if one carried a mountain of gold and silver, one might not even be able to buy it—and even if one were able to, one might not be able to buy enough.

It wasn't like taking one was enough. It needed to be consumed continuously as one raised one's tier so as to keep solidifying each tier.

Yue Kai Yu was now at the eighth layer of the Spiritual Ocean, and he at least needed a hundred or so Restore Origin Pills to fully compact his cultivation at the Spiritual Ocean Tier to the point of it being unshakable.

Once he saw Ling Han take out such a medicinal pill, not only was Yue Kai Yu's gaze burning with desire, even the Seven Sons of Ao Family revealed greedy expressions. There were too many descendants in the Ao Family—even if their family was affluent, after dividing share after share, what could possibly remain?

Luckily, the Seven Sons of Ao Family had amazing talent, receiving the sect's emphasized fostering, or else, relying solely on the Ao Family to grow, it would be pretty decent if just one or two of them excelled in their family.

After all, the Winter Moon Sect wasn't the Ao Family's.

"So?" Ling Han shook the pill bottle. Inside was a total of twenty Restore Origin Pills, which he refined after receiving Yellow Dragon Fruits. He originally planned to give it to Liu Yu Tong and the others, but he unexpectedly met Yue Kai Yu first. "Planning on being my friend yet?"

"Hmph, I'm indomitable before threats and immune to bribery!" Yue Kai Yu said, clenching his teeth.

Ling Han sighed, took out another pill bottle, and shook it. Inside it were twenty more Restore Origin Pills.

'F*ck.' The temptation of one bottle of Restore Origin Pill he could resist, but two bottles... even if it couldn't compact his tear to perfection, half of the work would be done. Besides, the Yue Family was also a large family, and with forty Restore Origin Pills, he'd already have half and be more sure of getting all eighty he needed... he already ate ten pellets before, so he would probably be able to cultivate the Spiritual Ocean Tier to perfection.

At this rate, he should be invincible at the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and once he crossed into the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, he would possess at least five stars battle prowess!

Ling Han laughed mischievously and took out a third pill bottle, shaking it and placing it with the others.

Yue Kai Yu couldn't help but lick his lips and said, "Don't you say that this bottle is also Restore Origin Pills?!"

Ling Han threw over the three pill bottles and said with a smile, "You've probably eaten these outdated pills, check for yourself."

Outdated?

Hearing this, everyone felt the urge to beat the hell out of Ling Han. If Restore Origin Pill was outdated, what counted as recent? The well fed wouldn't know how the starving suffered.

Yue Kai Yu opened a pill bottle and dumped the medicinal pills onto his hand. These were yellow, bean-sized pills, each emitting a bittersweet smell, which was very familiar to him.

"It certainly is a Restore Origin Pill, and the quality is extremely high!" he cried out, hurriedly checking the other two bottles of medicinal pills. The result was the same, which made his heart palpitate.

The Yue Family had few descendants, and he was the only one in the younger generation. It could be said that all the resources were used on him, but he had only ever eaten a dozen or so Restore Origin Pills, which cost the Yue Family countless financial

resources and favors!

However, Ling Han causally took out sixty Restore Origin Pills... what did this mean?

A tycoon, a super-tycoon!

"How can you possibly have so many Restore Origin Pills?" he asked with a quiver in his voice. Seeing such a large fortune would make even his old man's knees go soft, because it could just about foster a perfect Spiritual Ocean Tier warrior—it was an extremely shocking thing.

Ling Han smiled faintly, and said, "Still bothered by that punch and not going to be my friend?"

"Pah, If you give me two more bottles of Restore Origin Pill, I can let you punch me twice more," Yue Kai Yu immediately said, having no backbone.

This didn't cause other people to look down on him. Those were Restore Origin Pills, and even if one punch could only be traded for one pill, countless people would be willing to present their faces for a beating. But who would be that bored and waste medicinal pills so extravagantly?

Yue Kai Yu was proud without a doubt, but he wasn't an idiot. He immediately lowered his attitude and placed the benefits first. It wasn't humiliating to be beaten in a jest, anyways.

He reached out to grab Ling Han and borrowed his power to stand up, but he then reached to touch his face and said, "But honestly, that punch of yours was truly heavy."

Ling Han smiled. Thinking of the pain his old man suffered, could he have thrown a weak punch? If this punch landed on the Seven Sons of Ao Family or Ao Feng, it wouldn't be just about pain, but about taking their lives.

"My master is an alchemist, and is busy with refining pills all day. So, ask me for whatever medicinal pills you want. I'm so broke that

the only thing I have left are medicinal pills," Ling Han explained.

Everyone came to a sudden realization: this guy had a high-grade alchemist behind him. It was no wonder he could take out three bottles of Restore Origin Pills. They were all envious, they wanted to be poor like that too!

They looked at Ling Han with completely different gazes now.

This wasn't a new member of the sect, but a golden and dazzling treasure chest, inside of which were infinite medicinal pills! The men all looked enviously at Yue Kai Yu who easily received three bottles of Restore Origin Pills, and they wanted even more to become friends with Ling Han—medicinal pills could be taken as one pleased.

The females looked at Ling Han with burning and seductive gazes. It obviously needn't be said what their intentions were.

No wonder this guy had a Fourth Tier high quality Spirit Tool that could made his battle prowess break through fourteen stars. Would one who could casually take out three bottles of Restore Origin Pills lack money? Other things aside, as long as he was willing to trade Restore Origin Pills, would he still not be able to get a Fourth Tier high quality Spirit Tool?

After this round of battles ended, there were only thirty people who qualified to stay.

"Eleventh to twentieth place step forward." The Spiritual Pedestal Tier was also somewhat shocked at Ling Han's confidence, but he still had a mission at hand. He still announced the start of the eighth round of battles.

And this time, everyone avoided Ling Han the best they could.

Chapter 341: Battling the Seventh Son of Ao Family

Previously, people thought that Ling Han was just a chicken, but now, this guy not only turned into somewhat of a fierce tiger, but also a god of wealth. Such a person... who would want to battle him?

First, they might not even win!

The top hundred and their strength had no definite relationship; Yue Kai Yu's strength was definitely in the top ten, but in the first round's exam, he only ranked in the twenties.

Therefore, even Yue Kai Yu was defeated at the hands of Ling Han, who else would be able to fend against Ling Han?

Moreover, even if they won, it might not be a good thing— who would want to be their friend if they were marked by Ling Han?

So, each person wanted to avoid Ling Han; there were nine other people to challenge anyways.

However, there had to be a person with bad luck that would face Ling Han. He laughed embarrassedly, and said, "This humble one is Zeng Yuan, it's an honor to see Senior Brother Han. This battle won't be fought, this humble one concedes." First, he certainly wasn't Ling Han's match, and second, he wanted more do Ling Han a favor.

Ling Han smiled slightly, and said, "You let me win."

Zeng Yuan couldn't help but be dumbfounded—was that all? He wanted to be friends with Ling Han. This guy was rich and imposing, and was absolutely shocking when he gave out three bottles of Restore Origin Pill at once.

In everyone's eyes, Ling Han was probably foolishly rich. Wasn't he? Taking out such a great gift to a person he just met, if this

wasn't foolishly rich, what was it?

Since that was so, why not give him a few bottles?

He felt extremely awkward, but he had to turn back, retreating into the crowd.

Seeing this, everyone thought to themselves, 'So this guy wasn't an idiot!'

After this round, there was only one more round left. Those who won could advance into top ten and receive rewards. However, if they wanted to be first, then they definitely had to experience many battles.

One hour later, the second last round completely ended, with only twenty people still remaining on the field. Amongst them, Winter Moon Sect's disciples took fourteen spots. A large sect was a large sect after all; they certainly had deep roots.

However, there were still six outsiders that remained. This meant that the strength of these outsiders was quite out of the ordinary.

The truth was so.

Some forces didn't establish sects or factions, and instead developed as a family. Although their strength couldn't be compared to that of a sect, after generations of accumulation, they possessed a shocking amount of cultivation resources. Concentrated all on one descendant, it was enough to create a prodigy.

Yang Chong, Bai Ming, and Si Qi Meng were amongst those, while the last two were males called Wang Ping and Xi Zhi Yuan. Both were at the seventh layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, which was truly shocking as they were only slightly inferior to Yue Kai Yu.

"Last round, start," the Spiritual Pedestal Tier overseer said.

"Hehe, which one of you will pick that guy?" The Seven Sons of Ao Family looked at each other—they had their attention on Ling Han.

"This guy can't be underestimated, even Yue Kai Yu was defeated at his hands," Ao Jian Cheng said.

"That's because Yue Kai Yu is too stupid and didn't use the Spirit Tool he had, stubbornly fighting head-on empty-handed. He was defeated because of idiocy," Ao Feng Hang said.

"That might not be the case, he received three bottles of Restore Origin Pills, the price of which exceeds even the Thunder Battle Armor."

"Not in the first place, yet he received medicinal pills that surpassed the first place; clearly a smart move."

"Whatever, if we can avoid him, then we'll avoid him and play with him in the final ranking battles."

"Yes!"

They reached a consensus, but the problem was... they wanted to avoid Ling Han, but what about others? It wasn't like people didn't see that Yue Kai Yu was no match for him, so as they stepped out, the other three people had already found their opponents—obviously, none of them picked Ling Han.

In other words, amongst the seven of them, one had to face Ling Han.

"I'll go." Ao Jian Cheng came forward.

"Alright, then it's up to you, Seventh Brother."

"That's right, he's merely in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier. If any other of us was sent out, then that would truly be thinking too highly of him."

The other six sons nodded one after another, then each searched for their own opponents.

"Admit defeat and forfeit." Ao Jian Cheng stood in front of Ling Han with his hands behind his back and his chin slightly raised, revealing an air of arrogance.

"Has no one ever told you your mouth stinks?" Ling Han snorted. "Speak less with that stinky mouth. If you must pollute the air, then it looks like I'll have to slap you a few times and wake you up a bit."

"What an arrogant guy." Ao Jian Cheng frowned. "Where do you get such courage from?"

"Obviously from my strength!" Ling Han hooked his finger in provocation. "Come at me. If I don't beat you into a pig head, then I won't be surnamed Han."

"Haha, I certainly want to see how you will beat me into a pig head." Ao Jian Cheng laughed coldly, revealing a baleful expression; he was really infuriated.

Ling Han attacked; this was Ao Feng's son who chased behind his butt in the previous exam. Since he didn't want to unleash the Demon Birth Sword and there was a strong cultivator secretly watching, it was hard to kill him even if he wanted to.

Now, he advanced into the Spiritual Ocean Tier, having the true qualifications to fight him head-on without relying on external forces.

Hong , he fired a punch; the earth spiritual ocean's Origin Power burst out violently and poured into his fist as martial intent manifested, forming bright vein-like lines and firing towards Ao Jian Cheng.

Ao Jian Cheng had a stern expression. He dared not to be careless, since his opponent could defeat Yue Kai Yu, meaning he had a battle prowess of at least a shocking fourteen stars. He drew his sword, and with a qiang , a chilling light like an expanse of autumn waters formed six flashes of Sword Qi, firing at ling Han.

Six flashes of Sword Qi meant great mastery!

Being able to rank in the Seven Sons of Ao Family—even last—Ao Jian Cheng's strength was extremely powerful.

This was a Spirit Tool that could increase his battle prowess by two stars.

...The higher the tier, the better effects of Spirit Tools, medicinal pills, and Spirit Talismans were. This was obviously the case, so a two star increase in battle prowess was already quite considerable.

Now, Ao Jian Cheng's battle prowess skyrocketed to sixteen stars. As the sword struck out with six flashes of Sword Qi moving unhindered, the air was torn apart, forming swirls that kept spinning in the air.

In all fairness, Ling Han's cultivation was certainly a shortcoming, and even though his power could rival the seventh layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, Ao Jian Cheng was in the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, not to mention that he might be stronger than an average cultivator with that power.

More importantly, fist techniques were Ling Han's forte. Fourteen stars, nearing fifteen stars was his limit at this moment, and it was impossible to increase it.

No matter, he also has a Spirit Tool.

Purple Star Handguard.

He immediately activated this Spirit Tool. Weng , under a power boost, his battle power instantly skyrocketed. Power was the most essential core aspect of battle prowess; as power increased, his battle prowess increased correspondingly by a step.

However, fifteen stars near sixteen stars still was a level inferior to Ao Jian Cheng.

Ling Han still had moves. Heaven Tier's experience was there; Ao Jian Cheng's every move could be immediately seen through,

including where the next attack would land. Such foresight not only offset the difference in battle prowess of one star, but also made Ling Han have the upper hand.

Hiss , the people that watched standing in a circle all cried out; this was too inconceivable.

"Looks like the new friend I made is a downright freak!" Yue Kai Yu muttered, and reached to feel the Restore Origin Pills inside his pocket; he now felt a sense of unreality.

Chapter 342: Face-slapping Starts with the Seventh Oldest

Ling Han had the absolute initiative. He hadn't activated the Eye of Truth, or else, Ao Jian Cheng's weaknesses would be plain for him to see. As long as their battle prowess wasn't too different, this would definitely be lethal, allowing him to win in a few moves.

After all, this was a Mystical Power.

"Impossible!" Ao Jian Cheng bellowed in anger. He was now near his full battle prowess, but he not only couldn't suppress Ling Han, but also lost the upper hand; he couldn't accept this at all.

Ling Han smiled slightly, and said, "Nothing's impossible, just behave and get slapped!"

"You wish!" Ao Jian Cheng was very conceited; ranking last amongst the Seven Sons of Ao Family was something he had to bear temporarily, and sooner or later he would soar into the skies. He hadn't soared yet and already suffered a heavy hit to the head, making everything look chaotic and gloomy.

He actually couldn't beat someone at the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier!

He absolutely couldn't believe and accept it.

"Ah!" he yelled angrily, took out a Spirit Talisman, and pressed it onto his chest. Instantly, violent Origin Power overflowed like a sea as his power increased sharply—his battle prowess soared by two stars.

This allowed him to directly suppress Ling Han, retaking the initiative.

The Spirit Talisman he used was called Small Devil Sky Talisman—it could temporarily increase power, and its effects lasted about ten minutes. So, he definitely had to defeat Ling Han within this

time, or else this precious Spirit Talisman would go to waste.

"No way, seventh eldest Ao was forced to use a Spirit Talisman!"

"It's truly unbelievable, so the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier can be so strong!"

"I've heard of a prodigy called Ling Han in the Desolate North. At the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, he defeated Feng Yan who was at the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier. I always thought it was impossible, but seeing this situation, I actually believe it now."

"That's too surprising, how can someone at the first layer of the Gushing Spring Tier possess such terrifying battle prowess?"

"Just how many stars does this guy's battle prowess have?"

Everyone looked on, shuddering with fear. It was too unacceptable that a person could be so strong; even the old Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivator's brows twitched. They really picked up a jewel, such a prodigy could be counted first-rate even in the middle state.

"Why don't you lose?! Lose! Lose!" Ao Jian Cheng shouted. If he still couldn't win after activating the Spirit Talisman, then he would really be disgraced.

Ling Han snorted and said, "Quit daydreaming!" He finally activated the Eye of Truth; light golden vein-like lines flashed by, and Ao Jian Cheng's each and every move was infinitely slowed down in his eyes.

Here, here, and here, full of weak points!

Ling Han was shocked; with his Heaven Tier experience, he only found seven of Ao Jian Chen's weak points, but considering both the power and attack speed, none of the seven weak points could be used... if he picked any of these seven points to attack, the result would bring destruction to both sides.

He had the Indestructible Heaven Scroll and definitely could endure more than Ao Jian Cheng, but he refused to win like this.

This was Ao Feng's son, so he had to win with ease and verve.

Under the Eye of Truth, the number Ao Jian Cheng's weak points was enlarged to nineteen. He immediately began calculating in his mind, simulating the result of an attack on each weak point. An instant later, he found an answer.

Hehe!

He charged towards Ao Jian Cheng.

"What!?"

"Impossible!"

"Did my vision blur?"

In the midst of everyone's cries, Ling Han avoided all of Ao Jian Cheng's attacks. His body swayed continuously as if he'd turned into a man made of paper. It looked unbelievable and completely unreasonable, but it turned out to be perfect evasion, which allowed him to arrive in front of Ao Jian Cheng with ease.

Pa!

Ling Han raised his hand and threw a slap, landing a solid blow on Ao Jian Cheng's face, crisp and clear-sounding.

Ao Jian Cheng's eyes turned red. He yelled furiously, "I'll kill you!" He was beyond furious. How humiliating was it for one of the dignified Seven Sons of Ao Family to be slapped in public?

He attacked in frenzy.

However, before Ling Han who activated the Eye of Truth, what meaning did such counterattacks have? Their strength was about the same, and the effects of the Eye of Truth were extremely amazing.

Pa! Pa! Pa!

Ling Han threw slaps continuously, and Ao Jian Cheng kept being slapped. One tooth after another fell out, but he couldn't resist at all; he could only shout angrily in vain. What meaning did it have that his attacks were brutal if they couldn't land?

"Enough!" The Spiritual Pedestal Tier cultivator could watch no longer. This wasn't called a battle, but a one-sided torture. It wouldn't be a big deal if it were someone else, but Ao Jian Cheng was Ao Feng's son, so he couldn't possibly stare blankly while Ao Jian Cheng was humiliated; otherwise, Ao Feng would definitely give him a hard time.

Ao Feng could at least cross into the Flower Blossom Tier in the days to come, and he wouldn't want Ao Feng to bear a grudge against him.

Pa, pa, pa, pa, Ling Han whipped out for more slaps, cleaning out all of Ao Jian Cheng's teeth before withdrawing his hand and backing down.

"Ah!" There was no way Ao Jian Cheng could stomach an insult like this, so he leapt out again towards Ling Han.

"Sir already said to stop yet you continue to fight, are you looking down on sir?" Ling Han taunted Ao Jian Cheng.

Ao Jian Cheng was almost driven mad. 'Earlier, when the Spiritual Pedestal Tier overseer said to stop, you damned still slapped me four times, and now you're trolling me? How shameless can you be!'

Too base, too lowly, and too treacherous!

The Spiritual Pedestal Tier warrior's expression was somewhat gloomy, annoyed at both Ao Jian Cheng and Ling Han. These two guys didn't take him seriously at all. One was Ao Feng's son, and the other had freakish battle prowess which meant boundless prospects; he couldn't do anything about either of them.

This naturally made him very morose.

"Enough!" he said coldly. "In this battle, the seventh son loses, and Han Ling wins."

Yue Kai Yu touched his face and said, "Compared to the seventh son, I only lost three teeth. I guess that counts as preferential treatment, right? What sort of medicine did this guy eat that made him so fierce!"

The other battles ended one after another, and the other six sons of Ao family won, but their expressions were quite terrible.

No matter how competitive the atmosphere within the Ao Family, they were all Ao Family's people as far as outsiders were concerned. Now that the seventh son was slapped publicly and even had all his teeth cleaned out, how could they not be livid?

"This guy actually dares to humiliate Ao Family's people in public, we can't forgive him!" Ao Jian said coldly.

"However, he can defeat Seventh so easily, I'm afraid that other than the eldest, the other sons wouldn't be his match."

"More importantly, that guy is only in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier! No matter what—Spirit Tool, Spirit Talisman, or medicinal pill—he has used to give him such battle prowess, it's still terrifyingly shocking."

The six sons of Ao family frowned at the same time as an intense sense of danger arose among them.

Chapter 343: Fifth Oldest

Ling Han stood on the side, feeling slight pain in his right eye. This was because his cultivation was not sufficient, causing a sense of discomfort after using the Eye of Truth for a short while. He immediately activated the Indestructible Heaven's Scroll, and with that supreme art circulating, his right eye soon recovered.

After all, he'd only used it for a short while; but if he used it for a longer period of time, then it definitely wouldn't recover so easily.

Ao Jian Cheng no longer had the face to stay. He had no chance for top ten anyways, so he naturally turned to leave—otherwise, wouldn't he be a laughingstock for others?

Everyone looked at Ling Han with shock in their eyes. This guy made his mark with this victory. The Seven Son's of Ao Family were definite prodigies among the younger generation; although above them were Spiritual Pedestal Tier warriors, all of them were over thirty years old.

In the world of marital arts, thirty years of age was the demarkation between the young and the mature. You were young below thirty and mature above—of course, the boundaries had to be renewed after crossing into the Flower Blossom Tier, when martial artists' lifespan greatly increased.

It could be imagined that after today's exam, the entire Winter Moon Sect would be in a commotion, and the old monsters that stayed hidden for a long time could appear, fighting over this exceedingly talented guy to become their direct disciple.

"Now the battles for top ten will be carried out," the formidable Spiritual Pedestal Tier said. "Only the ten of you remain, each person has to fight the other nine once. A win marks three points, a draw marks one point, and a loss marks none. Each battle will be at most a little over half an hour and if it runs out, that would be treated as a draw."

"Start!"

He swept Ling Han a glance, somewhat irked, but Ling Han's talent was too freakish—it didn't matter even if he was annoyed; in a few years, Ling Han's cultivation might surpass him to the point where he could only look up to him.

In the martial arts world, only cultivation and strength mattered; who would look at age and experience?

Everyone picked opponents with caution.

There was a strategy to this; for example, if one could originally rank in the middle but encountered a formidable foe right away and ended up heavily injured, then one's rank might end up at the bottom. After entering top ten, the reward they received would be much better with every rank, so everyone naturally wanted to scoop up more points.

Ling Han was too strong, and Ao Xing Lai was probably the only one qualified to be his opponent, so most people wanted to avoid him, facing him and Ao Xing Lai as the last two opponents.

But, how could this be possible?

Ao Xing Lai also didn't decide to challenge Ling Han first, and instead picked another person as an opponent.

Amongst the top ten, six were from the Ao family, so Ling Han chose one at random—the chance of encountering Ao Family's men reached two thirds.

His opponent was Ao Jian who ranked fifth—everyone called him Ao the Fifth or Fifth Eldest Ao.

Ao Jian dared not to be careless; he stepped forward with a stern expression and his sword in hand.

Ling Han smiled slightly, a baleful look in his eyes. He had no positive feelings for anyone in the Ao Family, so if he caught one, he'd give them a fierce beating. If he weren't at the Winter Moon

Sect, he would definitely take the Fifth Eldest into the Black Tower—whether he'd just imprison him or kill him, that would be entirely up to his mood.

Ao Jian didn't speak superfluous words, simply striking with an ultimate move. As the sword struck out, surprisingly whole six flashes of Sword Qi flew unhindered.

The Seven Son's of Ao Family ruled the roost in the younger generation of the Winter Moon Sect, they certainly shouldn't be underestimated. Just looking at the six flashes of Sword Qi, one would know. In the Rain Country, even the older generation of sword users didn't have such strength.

The amount of Sword Qi represented one's understanding of the sword path.

Ling Han opened the Eye of Truth, dashing forward and forcibly shuffling through the space between Ao Jian's attacks and arriving with ease before Ao Jian, whose gaze was full of disbelief. Pa, pa, pa, pa , he attacked his face.

With each punch thrown, Ao Jian would spit out a mouthful of blood along with a cracked teeth. Ling Han threw a total of thirty-two punches, and Ao Jian also spat out thirty-two mouthfuls of blood and thirty-two broken teeth.

Peng , when Ling Han threw the final punch, Ao Jian was sent flying in a parabolic arc, landing heavily on the ground and passing out right away.

What!?

Everyone gasped in astonishment. The saying went: beat someone but not their face, but Ling Han specially beat the face—that was too vicious, right? Martial artists wanted face the most, not to mention such proud people like the Seven Sons of Ao Family.

However, the two that fought hand to hand against Ling Han had

all of their teeth cleared out; would this lead up to a death feud?

He was too vicious.

Yue Kai Yu involuntarily touched his face, feeling even luckier that he only lost three teeth. Ling Han said that he wanted to be friends with him, and it was quite true, but something felt off?

This fight ended very quickly. From the start of the battle, Ling Han extremely dominatingly slapped Ao Jian thirty-two consecutive times, so fast like it was a gust of wind. After the wind blew by, the battle's outcome was decided.

That Spiritual Pedestal Tier overseer's expression was a bit gloomier. This was the second son in the Ao Family to be cleared of all his teeth. Ao Feng would definitely have a grudge against him for this since he was the supervisor. This was an undeserved catastrophe, making him feel a bit more displeased with Ling Han.

Ling Han didn't care about these things and sat down abruptly to recover some of the Origin Power he expended.

Actually, he really didn't expend much Origin Power. He only did it for show so that he'd appear a bit more normal. It was mainly to relieve the soreness in his eyes—activating the Eye of Truth two consecutive times gave him some pressure.

The Indestructible Heaven's Scroll already circulated and the discomfort in his eyes disappeared quickly, but this time, it was somewhat slower than the first time.

Half an hour later, all the battles ended, and everyone swapped opponents, battling again.

This time, Ling Han's opponent wasn't one of the Seven Sons of Ao Family, and it wasn't a Winter Moon Sect disciple, either; it was Yang Chong.

The Little Overlord Spear.

"Brother Han, how could such a strong person like you have no

reputation and suddenly pop out today?" Yang Chong unleashed his six meter long silver spear. The spear's body was like clear * 1 , pointing at Ling Han and emitting a terrifying baleful aura.

Ling Han smiled slightly and said, "Can't I just cultivate wholeheartedly and make my mark with one brilliant feat?"

"Then Brother Han's restraint is truly worthy of admiration!" Yang Chong took sudden large strides and charged towards Ling Han, using the spear like a long rod and fiercely sweeping it horizontally. Hu , the gust of wind whistled as if a silver dragon, rippling waves of gust. Ppa, pa, pa , ceaseless explosive sounds rang out as well.

This spear's speed broke through the speed of sound!

Ling Han charged up his punch and fired it at the body of the spear.

Hong!

His punch landed on the body of the spear, and instantly, his whole body trembled fiercely.

Every inch was an advantage; this long spear swept horizontally, not only accumulating Yang Chong's full power, but also maximizing the power in the motion. Unless Ling Han's power far surpassed Yang Chong's, this would be the only result of receiving this attack head-on.

In contrast, Yang Chong's thenar space cracked open and blood oozed out; however, he immediately changed the sweep to a thrust, plunging towards Ling Han's chest.

Sweeping the long spear again like a rod needed lots of room to rotate it, and if he were to sweep again, then it would give Ling Han a lot of time to recover—so how would it be a smart move for him?

Thus, he thrust the spear.

This was a follow-up move, and one of the strongest moves in "Overlord Spear Art."

Chapter 344: Little Overlord Spear

Ling Han's physique was extremely strong—having formed the Rock Cliff Body, his body was like a rock, difficult to harm by sharp weapons. However, the main power from Yang Chong's attack came from the shock, as if it were shocking his entire body into pieces.

For example, a sword slashed on a rock might only burst out a bunch of sparks, and while the rock stayed unharmed, the blade's edge instead would get bent. However, if a hammer was used to smash it? Then it was very likely to smash the rock into a pile of rubbles.

That was the case now. A wound immediately appeared on Ling Han's hand, and his entire right arm turned fully red; it was the blood that soaked through his clothes.

Ling Han grimaced. He was a bit conceited, assuming that when he formed Rock Cliff Body, he could look down on people of the same tier. This attack truly taught him a great lesson.

He reached out with his left hand and grabbed at the spear's tip.

"Audacious!" Yang Chong snorted. His nickname was Little Overlord Spear; who could seize his spear?

He thrust the spear hard. Pu, pu, pu, pu, six flashes of Spear Qi were generated and turned into six silver spearheads that thrust at Ling Han's shoulder, throat, chest, and face.

Ling Han smiled slightly—would he suffer a second time?

Fist Qi burst forth, and six silver-colored fists appeared, firing towards the Spear Qi.

Peng, peng, peng, peng , muffled sounds reverberated as the spearheads and silver fists clashed. It was clearly visible that the spearheads were completely annihilated but the silver-colored fists had some energy left, continuing to travel for a distance before

being extinguished by the gust brought about by the long spear.

Hiss!

Everyone was shocked. What was Qi? It was power and martial intent combined; without corresponding martial arts comprehension, Qi wouldn't be strong. With only martial arts comprehension and no power, Qi also wouldn't be strong.

Thus, the collision of Qi was the most simple and unadorned impact that couldn't be faked; it was a collision of hard power.

Ling Han's Qi forcibly suppressed Yang Chong's Spear Qi; what did this prove?

Kickass!

"What's more surprising is that the spear set off Yang Chong's Spear Qi—that spear is a Spirit Tool, right?—yet Han Ling's punch, which was set off completely unarmed, could suppress the Spear Qi fired by it, proving that Han Ling's martial intent is far above Yang Chong's!"

Someone saw what was even deeper. There was no doubt since they were the elites amongst the younger generation in the Winter Moon Sect, and had a discerning eye.

"This freak!"

"He's only nineteen, wait till he reaches twenty nine years old—what heights would he reach?"

"He probably might be recruited by a large force in middle state like Zhu Xuan Er was?"

"Pah, he improved relying on medicinal pills anyways."

The majority was surprised, but some were disdainful, thinking that everything Ling Han achieved was because of medicinal pills; if they could also receive fostering by endless medicinal pills, they would definitely be stronger than Ling Han.

These people were obviously envious.

Ling Han grabbed the spear tip; the Rock Cliff Body, on top of Origin Power, guarded his hand, and vein-like lines spread out, radiating brightly.

Yang Chong pulled his spear, but discovered that his spear was as if it were rooted in Ling Han's hand, completely immobile. A baleful look surfaced in his eyes; he stopped pulling, and simply poured all his force on the spear, pressing towards Ling Han.

He didn't believe that, under such a thrust, Ling Han could still be as if nothing had happened while holding the spear with his bare palms.

One had to know that his spear was a Fourth Tier Spirit Tool!

Ling Han snorted and shook his right arm, forcibly pushing the spear aside. Yang Chong was pouring all his strength in, so when the strength resisting him disappeared, he instantly fell forward uncontrollably.

Ling Han raised his right fist and left it straight up, placing it on the track where Yang Chong was charging.

Yang Chong's expression changed drastically. If he rammed into it, it would be seen as him ramming his face into Ling Han's fist. However, he had just used his full strength to thrust forward, so how could he be able to stop this momentum?

Teng, teng, teng, with quick steps, he rammed into Ling Han's fist.

From everyone else's perspective, this scene was extremely strange... Ling Han raised his fist long ago, and Yang Chong was as if he were possessed, ramming into it with his face of his own accord; moreover, it was done with all his might.

As the cheek and the fist were about to close contact, everyone closed their eyes, unable to look... this was an obvious tragedy.

Yang Chong's face was twisted. He didn't want to, but he really couldn't stop!

Peng!

His face rammed heavily into Ling Han's fist, and under the forceful impact, he instantly spun rapidly towards one side, almost breaking his neck.

Fortunately, with this external force, he was instead able to control his body now. He hurriedly stepped downwards with his feet, forcibly halting the momentum.

But how could a face compare to a fist? Not to mention Ling Han's fist was refined by the Indestructible Heaven's Scroll, as hard as a rock. The result of this head-on exchange was that the right side of his cheek bulged greatly, making him look like a pig's head.

One side was like a pig's head, and the other side was completely normal. Seeing such an intense contrast, people couldn't help but laugh, and a quite a few people burst into laughter.

Ling Han also laughed. "Junior Brother Yang is so bold and fierce, actually using your face to attack my fist. My respects, my respects! Could Junior Brother Yang be planning on abandoning the spear and cultivating the legendary iron-faced art?"

Being teased like this, Yang Chong was naturally fuming with anger, but no matter how one saw it, it looked like he used his face to ram Ling Han's fist. Ling Han stood completely still and he was the one who approached it on his own accord.

'Damn it, this damned bastard!'

Yang Chong pulled himself together, brandished the silver spear, and said, "The outcome hasn't been decided, don't you get happy too soon."

"Hmm, you can justify and speak with such reason while looking like a pig head, Junior Brother Yang's legendary iron-faced art is already somewhat successful." Ling Han continued to mock.

"Damn it!" Yang Chong couldn't bear it anymore. He swept the

long spear, charging in a frenzy at Ling Han with the same old trick.

Ling Han suffered once and wouldn't receive it head-on again unless he formed Iron Sheet Body. With a body like a metal chunk, he probably wouldn't fear such a head-on exchange. He laughed loudly and said, "In three moves, I'll make you kneel and sing the conquer song!"

"Bullsh!t!" Yang Chong gained knowledge through pain; he wouldn't give Ling Han the chance to grab his spear as he brandished the long spear in circles smoothly and quickly.

Ling Han dove right in. Under the Eye of Truth, would moves at a mere seventh layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier have no flaws? He charged in front of Yang Chong from an inconceivable route, fired a punch, and said, "A spear's advantage is in its long-ranged attacks and the immense power from sweeps, but at close range, a long spear has not much use and is only a burden!"

Yang Chong clenched his teeth, and made his left hand available to fend off Ling Han's fist.

Peng!

He immediately staggered and retreated. However, he was smart, thinking to take advantage of this backward momentum to increase the distance between him and Ling Han before organizing a counterattack. However, how could he use such a small trick in front of Ling Han?

Ling Han followed him like one's own shadow. Peng, peng, peng, he threw two consecutive punches and sent Yang Chong flying.

As expected, he only used three moves.

Chapter 345: The Final Battle

Ling Han obtained two successive victories. Furthermore, each victory was gained very efficiently and his momentum was getting stronger and stronger.

The third round of challenges began, and Ling Han encountered yet another one of the Seven Sons of the Ao Clan. He was the sixth one, and his name was Ao Ming Jie. As a result, there was no reason for Ling Han to be reserved. He activated the Eye of Truth and slap his opponent's face as much as he liked.

After thirty-two heavy punches, Ao Ming Jie also became a "toothless guy".

This time, everyone was now clear. Ling Han definitely nursed a grudge against the Ao Family. Against anyone else, Ling Han would merely defeat his opponent. Though he would still heavily wound his opponent, but none of them had such horrible encounters and had all their teeth beaten out of their mouths.

However, what kind of existence was the Ao Clan in the Winter Moon Sect? A Boss! The forefather of the Ao Family was one of the sect's Grand Elders, an old monster in the Spiritual Infant Tier; why did he have to make relations so tense with the Ao Family?

Even if he was young and hot-blooded, he still shouldn't have acted so arrogant.

Ling Han had no need for others to understand the way he did things. He simply waited. The opponent for the next round was also one of the Seven Sons of the Ao Clan, Ao Xing Han, who was third in the order. Needless to say, the result was that Ling Han gave him a heavy thrashing, and he, too, became a "toothless guy".

In the next round, Ling Han was up against Si Qi Meng.

This girl was indeed very strong. She had charged all the way here, and her current result was one victory and three losses. Her

one and only victory was obtained during her battle with Bai Ming. She was quite straightforward as well, and directly admitted defeat.

There was nothing else she could do. Her three losses were experienced at the hands of the Seven Sons of the Ao Clan; since Ling Han was capable of thrashing the Seven Sons of the Ao Clan so easily, what need was there to clearly describe the gap between her and Ling Han?

She was a delicate beauty, and if she was actually beaten black and blue in front of everyone, how embarrassing would that be?

Ling Han currently had five victories and zero losses, and at the moment, was ranked first together with Ao Xing Lai and Ao Yuan Wei.

In the sixth round, he came up against Bai Ming.

Bai Ming forfeited.

In the seventh round, he was up against Ao Feng Xing, and Ao Feng Xing actually decisively admitted defeat and escaped the fate of having his face slapped and becoming a toothless guy. This made Ling Han very displeased. His expression was completely black, as if no matter whom he looked at, they were displeasing to his eyes.

Everyone felt their faces twitch. Indeed, Ling Han really had a grudge against the Ao Clan. It was unacceptable to him even if his opponent admitted defeat, and he would actually be mad because of it.

In the eighth round, Ling Han was up against Ao Yuan Wei.

However, this guy did not admit defeat, and wanted to battle with Ling Han.

His ability was indeed slightly stronger than that of the other five sons of the Ao Clan, but that was only by a small margin. He had just moved to attack when Ling Han instantly activated his Eye of Truth to see the pattern of his attack clearly. Ling Han rushed out

and gave him a heavy thrashing. Immediately, he fell to the same fate as his four brothers and also became a toothless guy.

Ling Han covered his eyes. As he had successively activated the Eye of Truth, the burden was too heavy on him. This was not the kind of injury that could be healed just by circulating the Indestructible Heaven Scroll, but rather a powerful weariness that had arisen in his spirit. He would need a long rest to recover after this.

In the final battle against Ao Xing Lai, it looked like he wouldn't be able to use his Eye of Truth anymore. Otherwise, he could possibly suffer a severe backlash, and that was definitely not a pleasant experience.

That was all right. The Eye of Truth was only one of his trump cards. He still had other trump cards, such as the Indestructible Heaven Scroll. If worse comes to worst, he'd use his own injuries in exchange for injuring Ao Xing Lai and see if that would kill the latter!

When he thought of this, Ling Han could not help but exude a powerful vicious aura. Family was his reverse scale, and Ao Feng actually injured his father and imprisoned his mother; this provoked the demonic nature in his bloodstream.

"This is the final round, begin!" the elite of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier said calmly, though his eyes were fixed upon Ling Han and Ao Xing Lai. In his opinion, Ao Xing Lai was the most likely candidate for the champion—the only possible candidate, but there was actually another with eight victories and zero losses now. This was something that he had never imagined would happen.

The victor that would emerge between these two young men would be the champion of the disciple recruitment trial this time round.

However, if Ling Han was the champion, that would make the forefather of the Ao Clan very unhappy. That was because the

forefather of the Ao Clan was the one who had strongly suggested for the Thunder Battle Armor to be used as the prize for the champion. His intentions were very clear, and that was to make this Thunder Battle Armor the property of the Ao Clan.

At first, this was practically assured. All Seven Sons of Ao Family had stepped out, but the result... was really not that certain.

Between Ling Han and Ao Xing Lai, who was stronger?

Before this, no one would have any doubts, and would definitely confirm with absolute certainty that the strongest in the Spiritual Ocean Tier in the Winter Moon Sect was definitely Ao Xing Lai. But now, after witnessing Ling Han's formidable battle prowess, no one would dare to vouch for it so surely.

This young man was really too miraculous!

Ling Han faced Ao Xing Lai directly. This was Ao Feng's most outstanding son, and if he thrashed him heavily, Ao Feng would definitely be very displeased, wouldn't he? Ling Han could not help but grin and said, "I hope you will not admit defeat."

"Haha, do you think I'm one of those trash?" Ao Xing Lai asked coldly, his face filled with disdain.

These words were a blow against the other six sons of the Ao Clan, and made the five that were still here all look furious. However, their faces were all swollen from Ling Han's thrashing, so one couldn't really tell that there was any change in their expressions.

"Very good, then I will have no need to worry." Ling Han released a breath in relief. "I am definitely going to slap your face!"

Ao Xing Lai was so furious that his whole body shook. That was underestimating him too much!

"Young man, usually a loose tongue causes a lot of trouble; you have a bad mouth, and a pair of bad hands as well. I will cripple both your arms to let you know that the reputation of the Ao

Family is not to be tarnished by anyone!" he said darkly. He had already suppressed all signs of his rage, which showed his training in martial arts.

"Those are nice words, but you need real ability to back them up!" Ling Han hooked his finger at him. "Come on, then. My fist can no longer wait to leave a mark on your face."

"Insolence!" Ao Xing Lai finally moved. A long sword appeared out of thin air. It was as black as ink, and the moment it appeared, the whole sky darkened for a moment before returning back to normal.

"Black, Black Star Sword!" the disciples of Winter Moon Sect exclaimed in shock. Even the other five sons of the Ao Clan wore ugly expressions, strong jealousy brimming in their eyes.

The Black Star Sword was Ao Feng's signature weapon. It was a Level Five Spirit Tool, and could be successively activated. Even in the hands of someone in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, it would be able to express the greatest battle prowess at the level of Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Now that this Black Star Sword had appeared in Ao Xing Lai's hands, this at least clearly signified two things.

First, Ao Feng saw Ao Xing Lai as his real heir, and that was why he had passed on his own weapon to the latter. Second, it was very likely that Ao Feng was really about to step into the Flower Blossom Tier, so he could even give his Level Five Spirit Tool to someone else.

"That's right. This is the Black Star Sword!" Ao Xing Lai's face was filled with arrogance, and when he saw the jealous eyes of the other five sons, it made him extremely pleased. He had worked hard at cultivating for close to twenty years and did not dare to relax or be careless for even the slightest moment, and now he had finally made it.

He was the new representative of the young generation of the Ao Clan, the one and only.

"Han Lin, I am representing the Ao Clan to punish you!" Ao Xing Lai activated the Black Star Sword. One by one, the patterns lit up on the sword, and a terrifying aura emanated from it.

"Punish your sister!" Ling Han humphed. "Waving a chicken feather like it is a token of authority, who do you think you are?"

He took the initiative to attack. A fist flashed out and the images of seven dragons appeared, heading towards Ao Xing Lai in an assault.

Chapter 346: Crafty

Ao Xing Lai merely gave a cold humph and waved the Black Star Sword. A dark light appeared in which spots of starlight flickered, yet it was this light that easily destroyed the seven dragon images.

This was a Fifth Tier Spirit Tool. Even if it was not fully activated, it still had the power on the level of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

Ling Han was indeed a monster as he possessed sixteen Battle Stars at the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, but how could sixteen Battle Stars compare with the Spiritual Pedestal Tier? That was the same logic as how when Ling Han drew out the Demon Birth Sword when he was merely in the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier and caused even a king of demonic beasts in the Spiritual Ocean Tier to feel dread.

"Haha, now that the Black Star Sword is out, this guy would only be able to bow down before its might."

"That's natural. In the hands of Ao Xing Lai, even if the Black Star Sword cannot display the might of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, its grade as a Spirit Tool is authentic! With Ao Xing Lai's prowess, he should be able to release one percent of its power."

"Such might would qualify him to stand against any opponent below the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. No matter how monstrous you are, it's useless."

The spectators commented respectively. From the looks of things, this battle that had at first been filled with uncertainty had lost all suspense, and Ling Han would very quickly be defeated.

Ling Han frowned. The Black Star Sword was indeed powerful, and if he were to stand bare-handed against it, the results would really be uncertain... unless he could upgrade his physique to the Iron Sheet Tier—that would really be enough to stand firm against

a mid-level Spirit Tool.

Would he have to use the Demon Birth Sword?

A Level Ten Spirit Tool was naturally capable of easily dominating the Black Star Sword, and if these two crashed against one another, he was certain that the Black Star Sword would definitely be shattered—there was no other possible conclusion. But the problem now was that once the Demon Birth Sword was used, how many covetous eyes of those old monsters would this kind of supreme treasure attract?

How could it be that he could not deal with a son of Ao Feng without relying on the Demon Birth Sword!

Ling Han's pride was instantly challenged. His real trump card was not the Demon Birth Sword, nor was it the Indestructible Heaven Scroll. It was the Black Tower within him!

Fine, then let us contend with each other for now!

"Young man, you should also receive a strike from me!" Ao Xing Lai charged over, sword in hand. He waved the Black Star Sword, and instantly, six flashes of Sword Qi rushed forwards. Every flash of Sword Qi was as black as ink. These flashes of Sword Qi have been compounded by the Black Star Sword and possessed the destructive nature of the Black Star Sword.

Ling Han's fist shot forwards; six flashes of Fist Qi formed into six dragon images and met the incoming Sword Qi.

Pu, pu, pu, pu . Every flash of Sword Qi sliced each dragon image in two, and it seemed as if the six flashes of Sword Qi were practically unscathed, continuing to slash towards Ling Han.

Exclamations of surprise arose from the audience. In the battle that Ling Han had against Yang Chong, Yang Chong's Spear Qi was similarly compounded by his Spirit Tool, yet was completely unable to stand firm against the Fist Qi Ling Han delivered through his bare fists, but now, it was completely the other way

round.

They could only say that the Black Star Sword was really too strong!

Don't think that there was merely a small margin that separated a Level Four and a Level Five Spirit Tool—how many martial artists were separated by the breach from one martial arts Tier to the next? In the eyes of one in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, all in the Spiritual Ocean Tier could completely be considered mere ants.

Ling Han's figure swayed, he used the Shadow Wind Motion. He dodged all six flashes of Sword Qi as if he himself was a ghost.

"Hahahaha, you can't even receive one flash of Sword Qi from me yet you still dream of exchanging blows with me?" Ao Xing Lai sneered. He himself already possessed sixteen Battle Stars, but together with the Black Star Sword, he had battle prowess that was close to one Battle Star of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

How could this not even sweep away all opponents in the Spiritual Ocean Tier?

"This guy has the Black Star Sword in hand, and could completely dominate Han Ling single-handedly. He does not need to worry over wasting any energy at all. Yet previously, he had not challenged Han Lin at all and allowed us to be humiliated," Ao Feng Xing said in a low voice to the other four brothers, a cold light flickering in his eyes.

"Despicable!" Ao Jian's hands curled tightly into fists. "He was just planning to use Han Lin to trample over all of us, and then he would come up with a dominating victory. That way, everyone in the world would only remember that there is an Ao Xing Lai in the Ao Clan."

"Let us join forces; otherwise, we would completely appear inferior to him!" Ao Ming Jie suggested.

"All right!"

"Agreed!"

The other five sons of the Ao Clan nodded respectively. Later, they would go seek out Ao Jian Cheng; they did not believe that with the combined forces of six of the Seven Sons of Ao Family, they would still be unable to defeat Ao Xing Lai who was all by himself.

Hu! Hu!

The Black Star Sword waved forwards in a slash. The six flashes of Sword Qi that shot forwards were like black dragons, indestructible and shockingly terrifying. From the looks of things at the moment, Ao Xing Lai was indeed dominating the battle single-handedly, and showed an invincible image. No matter how anyone looked at it, there was no way Ling Han would be able to win.

Meanwhile, Ling Han was very troubled. He had at least four ways in which he could turn the flow of the battle around.

The first was for the Black Tower to express its might; according to Small Tower, it was capable of even destroying this whole world! However, this would attract the attention of those supreme bosses in the upper realm. In that case, the Black Tower would definitely be snatched away, and he would be killed like an ant.

There was no need to consider this option.

The second way was for the Black Tower to instill power into him and allow his cultivation level to soar all the way up to the first layer of Spiritual Pedestal Tier. Then, he would be able to smack Ao Xing Lai to death with a casual wave of his hand. However, the later the instillation of power from the Black Tower takes place, the better it would be for him. This implicated a chance for him to wash away his flaws and cleanse his essence, and Ling Han did not want to waste it simply like this.

At the moment, he was not considering this option.

The third was to draw out the Demon Birth Sword, but he had already considered the consequences of such a move previously, so he similarly put this option aside.

Then there was only the fourth option left, and that was to once again activate the Eye of Truth to distinguish the weak points of his opponent.

If Ao Xing Lai was really in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, the Eye of Truth would be useless. A Mystical Power was not a Divine Being, and could only upgrade his battle prowess to a certain limit. However, Ao Xing Lai was only capable of having a sliver of the battle prowess of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier by depending on the Black Star Sword, and this gave Ling Han a slight chance.

He could only choose to suffer the backlash. Compared with the other three options, using the Eye of Truth was still the safest option.

Weng , immediately, a gold-colored pattern lit up in his right eye. The world appeared in front of his eyes in a different form. Time slowed down incredibly, or even stagnated! Yet at the same time, a stream of bloody tears dripped from his eye.

Since he had overused the Eye of Truth, he ultimately still suffered much.

Kill!

Ling Han suddenly advanced and charged towards Ao Xing Lai.

He dodged the Black Star Sword and the six flashes of Sword Qi, and faced Ao Xing Lai directly.

Hiss!

Everyone was astonished. Ling Han actually managed to break through successfully? Could it be that the flow of the battle was going to be turned around now?

Yet Ao Xing Lai did not show the slightest bit of anxiety, and said

coldly, "I already knew that your movements are weird, so how could I not have made prior preparations?" His sword trembled, and there actually shot forward another flash of Sword Qi.

Seven flashes of Sword Qi!

No one could have guessed that Ao Xing Lai had still kept some of his ability in reserve. His limit was not six flashes of Sword Qi, but rather seven.

Ruler, a ruler of martial arts!

What a crafty guy.

The seventh flash of Sword Qi was as black as ink, and struck towards Ling Han's chest.

Even Ling Han had not foreseen this would happen. However, he had lived two hundred years in his last life, and in the last period of his lifetime, he had travelled to various unimaginably dangerous ancient sites, so his ability to cope with sudden changes was definitely first grade. Otherwise, he would have long died an uncountable number of times.

His figure inconceivably turned over and managed to avoid the fatal injury to his chest. At the same time, his right fist continued in an attack towards Ao Xing Lai's face.

Peng!

A strike instantly hit right below Ling Han's ribs. How powerful was the Sword Qi that it managed to tear an opening in his defenses of the Body of Rock Cliff... Blood gushed forth as if it was from a fountain, and Ao Xing Lai was also flung away from this punch.

Ao Xing Lai landed on the ground with a somersault. He opened his mouth and spat out a mouthful of blood which contained two shattered pieces of his teeth.

He could not help but be both angered and shocked. Though Ling

Han's injury was far heavier than his own, he had actually used the Black Star Sword!

Chapter 347: Defeating Ao Xing Lai

Gasps of shock arose from the audience. The Seven Sons of Ao Family could all be claimed to have a well-known reputation and the Winter Moon Sect had high expectations of them. Furthermore, in the history of the whole sect, very rarely had there ever appeared seven brothers who had such high ranking at the same time.

However, five out of them were defeated, one admitted defeat on his own, and if even Ao Xing Lai was unable to defeat Ling Han, then the Seven Sons of Ao Family would become a complete joke.

And they were defeated by the same person on the same day!

Both Ling Han and Ao Xing Lai took a few steps back. One had a hand on his ribs, whereas the other had one hand pressing down on his face.

The Lone Wolf's Blood continued to circulate and Ling Han once again charged forth. He continued to circulate the Indestructible Heaven Scroll to heal his injuries, intending to defeat Ao Xing Lai in one go.

As his cultivation level rose, the power upgrade that the Lone Wolf's Blood could provide had become less and less, and now, it could only give him a power upgrade of around one Battle Star's worth of battle prowess, but every little bit counted. The slightest bit of power upgrade was still something useful.

Ao Xing Lai's expression was filled with shock. He had purposely held one flash of Sword Qi back and attacked Ling Han when he was off guard, but he actually only managed to seriously wound his opponent... no, that couldn't really be considered as a serious wound, but only a slightly heavier injury, that was all.

Meanwhile, Ling Han's counterattack was to give him a harsh punch, which smacked two teeth out of his mouth.

However, there was no time left for him to be shocked at the moment as Ling Han quickly followed up with another punch, and he could only react. With a wave of his sword, seven flashes of Sword Qi suddenly emerged in a dance. Since he had already revealed his trump card, there was no longer any necessity to hide anything else.

With the upgrade provided by the Black Star Sword, the seven flashes of Sword Qi possessed a shockingly swift and fierce might.

Ling Han gave it his very best, and with the help of the Eye of Truth, he managed to dodge six flashes of Sword Qi but was still unable to completely dodge the seventh, which left another wound on his leg. However, Ling Han acted as if he had not felt a thing. Peng, another punch was delivered, which crashed into Ao Xing Lai's face.

This was completely using his own injuries to exchange for injuring his opponent.

In the eyes of everyone, the Black Star Sword was extremely sharp, and was also a Level Five Spirit Tool, possessing martial intent that could completely dominate the Spiritual Ocean Tier, so no matter how strong Ling Han's determination was, how many times could he continue to exchange his own injuries for injuring his opponent?

If Ling Han did not change his strategy, then he would only be continuously wounded severely by Ao Xing Lai, and finally lose his ability to battle.

Yet they did not know that Ling Han had the Indestructible Heaven Scroll. With that, ordinary injuries could be healed instantly; he also had three drops of Indestructible True Fluid, which could allow him to recover three times from a state of heavy injury.

What kind of concept was that? That meant he was practically a monster that could not be killed!

Moreover, he also had a sliver of divine sense from the Heaven Tier, and how easy would it be for him to dispel the martial intent that a Level Five Spirit Tool brought with it? If any other person was wounded even once by the Black Star Sword, even if it was just a flash of Sword Qi, they would be bleeding endlessly or even have their spirit completely destroyed. Otherwise, why would Spirit Tools be so feared?

To Ling Han, the only advantage that the Black Star Sword had was that it was slightly sharper than normal. En, it was extremely sharp, even his Body of Rock Cliff was unable to block it.

Peng! Peng! Peng! Peng!

The two continued to use their own injuries to exchange for wounding their opponent. Though Ling Han was completely covered by injuries and had a pale face due to losing a large amount of blood, Ao Xing Lai did not look that much better. There was not much difference between his face and a pig's face.

In other words, even if Ao Xing Lai was able to emerge victorious from this battle, that was not something he should be proud of, either. Not only had he depended on the might of a Spirit Tool, but his whole face had been thrashed until it resembled a pig's face, so he had completely lost all face.

Most importantly, Ao Xing Lai might not even win.

They could see as Ling Han continued to take alchemical pills, and forcibly suppressed the injuries on his body. From the look of things now, he could still continue to stand fast for a very, very long time.

...Ling Han was naturally only putting up a pretense by taking alchemical pills; he had no intention of letting anyone know that he had a strong recovery ability. Anyways, he had already said that he had an alchemist as his master, and he could even afford to give out whole bottles' worth of Return Spirit Pills, so it would not be something too strange for him to have a large amount of healing

pills on him.

This scene made that elite of Spiritual Pedestal Tier look hesitant, not knowing if he should step out and cease the battle or not. If things continued this way, both of them could very possibly be crippled at the end of the day. If that really happened, then even he could not absolve himself from blame.

And while he was hesitating, Ling Han and Ao Xing Lai had already exchanged another dozen fierce blows.

Ao Xing Lai was throwing up blood and his body staggered. Though he was in the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, he did not have the supreme recovery ability like the Indestructible Heaven Scroll, and now that he had been on the receiving end of multiple punches at Ling Han's hand, how could he remain unscathed?

He was now only forcing himself to stay standing with his willpower. He could not lose, he definitely couldn't lose. He was the head of the Seven Sons of Ao Family and he had inherited the Black Star Sword, so he could only be glorious for his whole life.

Yet why was his sight becoming blurrier?

Ao Xing Lai's whole face was covered with blood which had blurred his eyes, and his determination was also wavering. If anyone had received multiple punches by an opponent within the same cultivation level, how could they not be dizzy and have blurred eyes?

Everyone understood his current condition. Even if Ao Xing Lai, too, took some alchemical pills, it would still take some time for the medicine to take effect. Furthermore, medicine was only medicine; it was not a divine pill.

This was confusing to everyone, because Ling Han was obviously more severely wounded, yet he was still very active now. Though he was completely bathed in blood, his condition was better than

Ao Xing Lai's by an unknown number of times.

Could it be that the pills that this brat had taken were really divine pills?

"I will not lose, I will not!" Ao Xing Lai's feet stumbled, determination was keeping him upright. He definitely could not allow himself to pass out. He was Ao Xing Lai, and he definitely could not lose against an opponent of the same cultivation level.

That kind of fighting spirit unavoidably made everyone impressed. It was one matter whether or not Ao Xing Lai was a likable person, but this stubborn willpower was something worth praise, and even Ling Han nodded internally in approval.

However, they were on different sides. Furthermore, this involved the Thunder Battle Armor, so he could not possibly stop.

"For the sake of your fighting spirit!" Ling Han once again delivered a punch. Ao Xing Lai had trouble even standing, so how could he possibly dodge or even parry this attack? Instantly, Ling Han's fist crashed into his chest. "I shall gift you with a dignified loss."

Peng, Ao Xing Lai crashed heavily onto the ground, and was completely unable to get back up again.

No matter how strong his determination was, there was a limit to it.

The nine successive battles had ended, and Ling Han had a result of nine victories and zero losses, so he was undoubtedly the champion.

"Very good. Now, you may all return to rest, and tomorrow, we shall award the prizes," that elite of Spiritual Pedestal Tier announced. He was also relieved. Though Ao Xing Lai was very severely thrashed, he ultimately did not suffer any heavy injuries that he could not recover from.

"Haha, Junior Brother Han, come, come, come. Come and play at

my place!" Yue Kai Yu immediately approached and offered Ling Han an invitation.

Putting aside the fact that Ling Han had given him three bottles of Return Origin Pills, just the fact that Ling Han had defeated all Seven Sons of Ao Family was enough to make Yue Kai Yu treat him as a friend.

Ling Han said, "Let me clean myself up a bit before I head over to Senior Brother Yue's place."

"Of course! Of course!" Yue Kai Yu quickly nodded. Ling Han was completely covered in blood at the moment and cut a very sorry figure, so he naturally had to take a bath and put on clean clothes.

Ling Han returned to his accommodations at the Rising Sword Peak and directly entered the Black Tower. He cleaned himself up and ate a stalk of one-hundred-year ginseng to nourish his body before heading to look for Yue Kai Yu. He wanted to probe for some information about his mother from the latter.

Chapter 348: Worming Facts

Yue Kai Yu was very enthusiastic, and had prepared drinks in his personal courtyard early on. The moment he saw Ling Han, he said, "Junior Brother Han, quick, please, please, please, you're not going home till you're drunk!"

Ling Han laughed. "If I'm drunk, what do I do if I don't remember the way back?"

"Then just stay for the night!" Yue Kai Yu said without the slightest bit of hesitation.

"This place that Brother Yue is staying, tsk, tsk, tsk!" Ling Han seemed to be very envious. This was not the Rising Sword Peak, but rather Halting Peak—among the seven peaks, it could be ranked second in terms of having the most abundant Spiritual Qi.

Naturally, only extremely talented members of the younger generation like Yue Kai Yu and the Seven Sons of Ao Family were qualified to stay here, whereas the elites of the Spiritual Pedestal, the Flower Blossom, and the Spiritual Infant Tiers could stay on White Cloud Peak, which had the densest Spiritual Qi.

"With the talent that Junio Brother Han has, it would be a piece of cake for you to get your own courtyard on the Halting Peak." Yue Kai Yu patted Ling Han's shoulder. "Come, come, come. Drink! Drink!"

Yue Kai Yu's courtyard was very quiet. Aside from a single scholar boy, there was no one else, which was proof enough that Yue Kai Yu had his complete focus on martial arts, without any other unnecessary thoughts.

From this aspect, Ao Feng was indeed a genius. He was an absolute womanizer, yet his cultivation could soar all the way up to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and now, he already had one foot in the Flower Blossom Tier, which was indeed something to be impressed

about.

Ling Han had the intention to worm information about his mother out of Yue Kai Yu, so he began to engage in a drinking competition with the latter. If he managed to get the latter drunk, then it would naturally be easy for him to ask his questions.

"Come, I'll have a cup and you have one too, and whoever does not drain his cup is a bastard!" Ling Han declared, raising his cup in a toast.

"You have one, and I'll have two!" Yue Kai Yu said very generously. However, without waiting too long, he was already having a headache, and his body was swaying. He was already half-drunk, and there was completely no need for Ling Han to encourage him to drink as he had already filled his own wine cup continuously.

'Cousin, so sorry!' Ling Han thought to himself. The wine that he had drank had directly entered the Black Tower, so naturally, no matter how much he drank, there was no way he could be drunk. When he saw Yue Kai Yu was already drunk and his eyes had turned hazy, he asked, "Senior Brother Disciple Yue, don't you have any siblings?"

"N-none. My dad only had me!" Yue Kai Yu said stammeringly.

"Could it be that your grandfather also only had your father as a single child?" Ling Han asked deliberately.

"I still have an aunt."

Light flashed through Ling Han's eyes, and he continued to ask, "Then does your aunt not have any children?"

My aunt, my aunt committed a huge crime, and has been imprisoned by my grandfather at, at..." Yue Kai Yu shook his head, as if he was remembering and struggling at the same time.

"Imprisoned where?" Ling Han asked as he filled another cup of wine for Yue Kai Yu.

After he had drank a few cups, Yue Kai Yu was grinning dizzily, and said to Ling Han, "Junior Brother Ling, what cultivation technique have you practiced? Why is it that I suddenly see three, and then suddenly... there's two of you? Hahaha, why have you gone back to becoming only one of you?"

Ling Han sighed. He couldn't feel offended by a drunk man! He used a sliver of his divine sense of the Heaven Tier and asked sternly, "Where is your aunt now?"

Yue Kai Yu instantly stiffened, his body frozen; confusion appeared in his eyes as he said, "My aunt is currently imprisoned at —"

Peng!

It was right at this moment that a loud bang was heard, and the main doors were heavily kicked open. A slender young girl strode in. "Where is Han Ling, get out here!"

With such a commotion, Yue Kai Yu had mostly sobered from his drunken state in an instant. His eyes swept over the intruder and he could not help but frown. He asked, "Ao Zi Tai, what are you doing here?"

Another with the surname Ao? Most probably, this was one of Ao Feng's daughters.

Ling Han, too, turned to look at the young girl. She looked to be in her early twenties and looked very beautiful, not the slightest bit inferior to Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan. However, the arrogance in her expression made her seem as if she could fly at any moment. Such a woman... no matter how beautiful she was, Ling Han could not be moved by her beauty, what more when she was the daughter of his foe.

However, Ao Zi Tai's cultivation was actually already in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and considering her age, this was very surprising. She had beauty and a high talent in martial arts, so no

wonder she was overwhelmingly arrogant.

"Yue Kai Yu, so he's Han Ling?" Ao Zi Tai did not look the slightest bit guilty for barging in by force. Instead, her tone was extremely overbearing as she pointed a finger at Ling Han.

"He is indeed Junior Brother Han. However, what do you mean by entering without an invitation?" Yue Kai Yu asked darkly, flames of anger burning in his expression.

No matter who it was that had his home forcibly trespassed by someone else, he would naturally be angry.

"What do I mean?" Ao Zi Tai humphed and said, "This guy injured a few of my brothers, I want him to kneel in front of them in apology!"

"Nonsense!" Yue Kai Yu slammed a hand heavily onto the table and rebuked, "Junior Brother Han had defeated those brothers of yours in a fair battle, and this is something that is publicly known. Yet you come and make trouble here, this will only discredit the reputation of the Ao Family."

"I don't care!" Ao Zi Tai shook her head, her expression furious. "I only know that this man has injured my six brothers and caused them to be humiliated. I want him to crawl all the way to the quarters of my seven brothers and kowtow sufficiently in front of their doors to beg for the forgiveness of my seven brothers."

Yue Kai Yu was angry and also wanted to laugh at the same time. He said, "Are you a kid that has yet to grow up to actually say such childish words?! Go back quickly and don't make others laugh at you or increase your own humiliation!"

"Yue Kai Yu, are you going to help me or not?" Ao Zi Tai asked coldly.

"Heng, I have no intention to accompany you in your wilfulness!" Yue Kai Yu refused decisively.

Ao Zi Tai once again turned to look at Ling Han and said, "Han,

I'll give you one last chance. Immediately crawl over and kowtow in front of my seven brothers in apology!"

"Does the Ao Clan keep producing these women that have problems with their brains?" Ling Han asked Yue Kai Yu.

"You, you dare to insult me?" Ao Zi Tai was stunned. This outrageously bold criminal was really too despicable.

"Brother Han, it's best not to offend her." Yue Kai Yu neared Ling Han, and said in a low voice, "She is Attendant Ao Feng's most beloved daughter, and she herself is very beautiful with very high talent in martial arts. As a result, there is a large number of young people in our sect that admires her.

In other words, once you offend her, that would be equivalent to offending a majority of the younger members of the sect, and that would be a scenario where your enemies would be everywhere."

No wonder she was so arrogant and behaved even more egotistically than the Seven Sons of Ao Family.

Ling Han smiled calmly and said, "Get out of here now. Otherwise, I won't just insult you, I will smack your face as well! You should remember clearly the looks of those brothers of yours, so it couldn't possibly be that you want to share the same appearance that they have, right?"

"Don't the two of you regret this!" Ao Zi Tai said coldly. Then, she reached out and ripped her own clothing. With a few tears, there had already appeared a few holes in her sleeves and her pants, and her fair skin could clearly be seen.

She ruffled her hair, then screamed out suddenly, "Molest! Molest!"

An elite of Spiritual Ocean Tier was already very much stronger than an ordinary person, and though the voice of one could not be described as thunderous, it was not that far from that level either. Instantly, her voice had spread throughout the whole peak, and

even people on some of the nearer peaks heard her.

Yue Kai Yu instantly understood what trick she was playing, and could not help but wear a darkened expression, looking extremely furious.

Chapter 349: False Accusation

Within mere moments, a considerable number of people raced over, and all surged forth into the courtyard.

"Junior Sister Zi Tai, are you all right?"

"Who molested you? Tell me, I will tear him apart!"

"To dare to have intentions even on Junior Sister Zi Tai, he's really tired of living!"

They exclaimed one by one. Those that were qualified to live on this peak were at least in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and there were even some disciples in their thirties and forties who had already broken through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. Among them, there were some that could possibly break through to the Flower Blossom Tier, or even the Spiritual Infant Tier.

Ao Zi Tai was indeed very popular. Just one shout from her, and so many people had immediately raced over. Some of them had even been in seclusion yet still ran over without a care.

Beautiful women were a limited resource in the first place, and there were even fewer beauties that had considerable cultivation levels, what more when Ao Zi Tai was unusually beautiful.

Ao Zi Tai was indeed an excellent actress. Her previous arrogant, cold, and merciless expression was completely withdrawn from her face. She had fallen and sat on the ground, with tears coating her face, and sobbed. "They wanted to molest me, and force me! Wu, wu, wu, I don't want to live anymore!"

Hong , instantly, everyone's rage was ignited, and they all glared furiously at Ling Han and Yue Kai Yu, looking like they wanted nothing more than to swallow the both of them whole and skin them alive.

However, there were still some that had not lost their senses, bewitched by Ao Zi Tai. Someone asked, "That's not really

possible, is it? In this kind of place?"

This was a place under the close supervision of the Winter Moon Sect, and any bit of disturbance sensed would immediately attract the attention of the elites of the sect.

"What's so impossible about it? Or are you doubtful of Junior Sister Zi Tai's words and her charm?" However, these doubts were immediately drowned out. "Perhaps these two had the same thoughts, and that's why they were so outrageously bold to dare use brute force here!"

"Kill them!" Quite a number had eyes red with anger.

"Cough!" Yue Kai Yu stood up and said, "Senior and Junior Brothers, you all are being too arbitrary. Just because of one word from her, you do not care about what the truth is?"

"Hehe, others may not dare, but if it was Senior Brother Yue..." someone said.

When the others heard this, they nodded respectively. Yue Kai Yu was the great-grandson of Grand Elder Yue, and if he had indeed molested Ao Zi Tai, then as long as the Elder Patriarch of the Yue Clan was willing to make a bit of compromise, it was not an impossible thing for Yue Kai Yu to marry Ao Zi Tai in recompense.

When they thought this, a considerable number felt a layer of cold sweat accumulate on their bodies. Thank goodness they managed to get here in time.

Now, the majority had already lost their senses due to their overwhelming anger, and even if there were some who were still rational, they were in the minority.

"Apprehend the two of them and deal with them according to the rules of our sect!" they exclaimed, and one after another, they leaped out to take action.

"We can spare Yue Kai Yu, but Han Lin must be executed! What

kind of wretched thing he is to dare to actually molest Junior Sister Ao Zi Tai!"

"That's right, kill him!"

They were all extremely furious. Yue Kai Yu was a member of the Yue Clan and no one dared to kill him, but Ling Han was a different story. He was just a newbie that had just recently been taken into the sect, and even if he was killed, it was not advisable to offend the masses. How would the sect actually afford to punish all of them just for the sake of one single person?

Ao Zi Tai had naturally foreseen that would be the case, and that was why she had used such an underhanded scheme.

Ling Han shook his head. Against young men like them, beauty was indeed a powerful weapon. A tiny trick like that was enough to turn these so-called geniuses into rash, hot-blooded fools; really, even if they were sold off, they'd be counting money for the person who had sold them off.

In truth, it was hard to blame them for it. These people had always admired Ao Zi Tai, and all of a sudden, they heard that their goddess had almost been defiled and raped—they were naturally outraged. In the midst of rage, it was of course natural for them to lose the common sense that they should have.

He humphed lightly and exclaimed, "A bunch of idiots!"

He had instilled a sliver of intent of a Heaven Tier elite in this exclamation; there was not much force behind it, but it was enough to enter directly into the minds of every single one of them. Instantly, they all looked dazed, and calmed down from their fury.

Yi, there seemed to be something off with this; even if Yue Kai Yu intended to rape Ao Zi Tai, he should not have dragged Ling Han in as well.

Ling Han beckoned Yue Kai Yu over and signalled the latter to

cooperate with him. Then, he said, "Take a look at the clothing on this woman..." With a chila , he began to tear at Yue Kai Yu's clothes, which gave the latter a scare.

"If they had been torn by another, they should look like this!" Ling Han raised Yue Kai Yu's arm. "But that woman's clothing, hehe." He paused a while, and continued, "Senior Brother Yue, tear your own sleeve."

Yue Kai Yu finally understood what Ling Han wanted to do, and quickly nodded. With another chila , he tore open his other sleeve, and indeed, because the angle at which he exerted force was different, the resulting tear looked completely different.

Shua , everyone's eyes instantly turned to stare at Ao Zi Tai.

They were all at least in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, so how could they be idiots? Just now, they had only been fooled because of Ao Zi Tai's beauty, and had their reason overridden by anger, but with Ling Han's reminder, they had all calmed down and begun to consider the matter seriously.

Attempted rape was, in the first place, an illogical thing, because this was Yue Kai Yu's personal courtyard, so why had Ao Zi Tai appeared here? On the other hand, if it was Ao Zi Tai who was trying to frame them, everything would become logical.

"Don't you all trust them; for the sake of escaping punishment, they would of course make a false countercharge." Among the masses, someone immediately called out, making a few of them regain their looks of rage and return to glare at Ling Han and Yue Kai Yu.

Ling Han strode out, his eyes sweeping over the crowds, and said, "To hide the head and show the tail, do you think I don't know that you're hiding there?" He directly acted, and peng, peng, peng... there were a few that attempted to stop him, but Ling Han forced them away with a palm strike each.

He instantly grabbed onto a man and asked Yue Kai Yu, "Senior Brother Yue, do you recognize this person?"

"He should be one of Attendant Ao's sons, but as for his name... hehe!" Yue Kai Yu said after a moment of consideration.

Ao Feng really had too many illegitimate children.

With a toss, Ling Han threw the man onto the ground and said, "Everyone should know by now that these two belong to the Ao Clan, they are merely putting on the trick of covering for one by the other shouting with the crowd."

It was very obvious that this guy was there to fan the flames.

Silence fell upon the crowd. They were not fools, after all. Ao Zi Tai could make use of their admiration for her, but ultimately, she could not continue to deceive them forever.

Ao Zi Tai screamed shrilly, "Don't listen to their nonsense. They almost molested me, and are still trying to slander my name, they have gone too far!"

Ling Han humphed and once again walked towards Ao Zi Tai. His slender figure created a long shadow on the ground, which shrouded Ao Zi Tai.

"You, what are you doing?" she asked in a trembling voice.

"You framed myself and Senior Brother Ao, so should you not receive some punishment?" Ling Han asked coldly and stretched out a hand to subdue Ao Zi Tai.

"Stop!" Instantly, there was a considerable number of people who acted simultaneously, attacking Ling Han at the same time.

It was one thing for Ao Zi Tai to make use of their feelings, but even if they knew that they had been deceived, how could they simply let go of their feelings of admiration just like that? They naturally could not simply stand by and watch as Ling Han made a move against Ao Zi Tai.

"Those who attempt to stop me should pray for luck!" Ling Han said coldly, his battle prowess on full power.

Peng, peng, peng, peng . Six flashes of Fist Qi danced unhindered. Silvery images of dragons surged forth, and those who stood in his way were completely unable to stand against their might. They were all flung away with a punch from him, and it was as if stalks of straw were flying around in the air.

Ao Zi Tai was astonished, and she could no longer pretend to sob piteously on the ground. She hurriedly leaped up, intending to make her escape by ducking into the crowd. There were over a hundred Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artists here, and she did not believe Ling Han could defeat all of them in one go.

"Your limbs are quite swift!" Ling Han smirked coldly. He used the Shadow Wind Motion and instantly appeared behind Ao Zi Tai. With a hook of his right arm, this woman fell into his grasp.

Chapter 350: Killed with a Single Slash

"Who is this guy, how could he have such dominating power!"

"One punch was enough to fling seven martial artists of the Spiritual Ocean Tier away, and furthermore, Senior Brother Liu is someone in the sixth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier!"

"Hiss, when did such a freak appear in our sect?"

"Hehe, you guys don't know, do you? He is one of the newly accepted disciples this year. Moreover, he has just entered into our sect the day before, and today, he has gained the first place position in the entrance trials!"

"What!?"

"With the Seven Sons of Ao Family participating, he still managed to get the first place?"

"What kind of news did you guys get? The Seven Sons of Ao Family, as well as Senior Brother Yue, have all been defeated by him!"

"I seem to get it now; no wonder Ao Zi Tai had put on such an act."

There were no idiots here, and as long as they could keep their calm, they could very easily understand the ins and outs of the whole story.

"Han Lin, release Junior Sister Zi Tai first, we can discuss things calmly!" Someone asked Ling Han for mercy.

Ling Han smiled calmly, and said, "When you all burst in just now, you all looked very fierce, as if you wanted to beat me to death at any moment. I'm really very scared!"

"Eh!" Everyone was struck speechless. You are so ferocious that you have even defeated all the Seven Sons of Ao Family, so who amongst the people gathered here would be able to threaten you?

But as Ao Zi Tai was still in his grasp, he could naturally say whatever he liked.

"Junior Brother Han, I know that there is displeasure in your heart, but Junior Sister Zi Tai is Attendant Ao's beloved daughter, and is also the great-granddaughter of Grand Elder Ao!" someone reminded.

Ling Han laughed lightly, and said, "Senior Brother Yue is also Yue Zhen Shan, Attendant Yue's son, as well as Grand Elder Yue's great-grandson, but this ugly woman had still set him up without the slightest bit of hesitation! Since she has not given any face to him, Senior Brother Yue naturally need not give her any face, either."

Yue Kai Yu suddenly gaped. Why was he so suddenly dragged into this issue? But when he thought about it for a moment, he did not say anything to refute Ling Han's words. Ao Zi Tai's actions had made him extremely displeased, and he had the intention to make her suffer a bit.

If he really tolerated this without making any attempt at payback, then wouldn't that mean that the Yue Clan was beneath the Ao Clan?

Thus, this was not a matter that could be settled with him simply saying that he would let things go, because this affected the competition between two different factions.

"Junior Brother Han, you are indeed unusually strong, and there may be no one capable of standing against you in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, but there are so many of us here now, so we are at the advantage in terms of numbers. Why don't you first release Junior Sister Zi Tai? The sect will naturally serve out justice for yourself and Senior Brother Yue," another said.

Ling Han laughed, but turned to look at Yue Kai Yu and said, "Senior Brother Yue, if the accusation that we attempted molest and rape was made solid, what would happen to us?"

"There are three taboos in martial arts: defying one's parents, betraying one's master, and committing a sexual offense. Our Winter Moon Sect has always strictly observed these three taboos, so if the accusation of rape was really made solid, the punishment would be execution!" Yue Kai Yu said after some consideration.

Ling Han's eyes turned cold, and said, "I am actually someone nice. If you respect me, I will respect you as well. But I also remember my grudges very well; whoever treats me badly, I will definitely avenge myself!

Since you want me to die, then why should I allow you to live?" These words were directed at Ao Zi Tai.

Ao Zi Tai could not help but quiver, and said, "Could it be that you actually dare to kill me?"

"Junior Brother Han, don't be rash. That, after all, is merely conjecture—" Yue Kai Yu hurriedly said.

Pu!

Yet Ling Han snatched away someone else's sword, and with a light scrape, blood gushed forth and Ao Zi Tai's throat was already slashed open. She stared at Ling Han in disbelief, one hand holding onto her throat, yet she was not able to stop the onsurge of blood at all.

She had died just like that?

She had merely come to stand up for her brothers, and planned to use her influence among the younger generation to forcibly remake Ling Han into a despicable character who would molest women, and by that time, public clamor would be able to obscure the actual truth. How would Ling Han be able to continue to stay in the Winter Moon Sect?

He would definitely have his cultivation crippled and be forced out of the sect.

Even if events had exceeded her expectations in the later half, she

was not the slightest bit anxious. Anyways, if one plan did not work, there was always another. But she had never thought that Ling Han would be such a decisive character—he had actually killed her with a single slash!

She was of the Ao Clan; why had Ling Han dared to do something like that?

She would never know the reason. As the last signs of life left her body, she fell onto the ground with a peng , and her beautiful face, just like that, was stuck onto the dirt.

Hiss , continuous sharp breaths were heard from all around. Then, a considerable number turned to stare at Ling Han with red eyes.

"Want to fight? I am willing," Ling Han said calmly.

He was especially angry, because he had just about managed to get some information about his mother, but was forcefully interrupted by Ao Zi Tai. Furthermore, his mother was currently imprisoned, and the cause for it was because the Ao Clan was involved. Now that Ao Zi Tai was also planning to set him up, his killing intent was naturally overflowing.

He entered the Winter Moon Sect indeed to find out his mother's location, and indeed because he wanted to obtain the Thunder Battle Armor, but this did not imply he was willing to submit to humiliation!

He was someone who had been in the Heaven Tier and the Alchemy Emperor in his last life—how could his backbone be soft?

In the worst-case scenario, he could give up on the Thunder Battle Armor. Moreover, as long as he was able to become more powerful, how could he not be capable of crushing the Winter Moon Sect and rescuing his mother? It was only that this plan would take longer, and he wanted to rescue his mother as soon as possible.

"Han Lin!" at least a few dozen people roared in anger, eyes red, their killing intent sky-high.

No matter what fault Ao Zi Tai had done, she did not deserve death! Now that their goddess had passed away, this made them extraordinarily outraged, and they were determined to crush Ling Han into dust.

It was only now that Yue Kai Yu came back from his shocked state, and he could not help but wipe away the cold sweat that had gathered on his forehead. This guy was really a little ancestor; he had actually killed Ao Zi Tai just like that.

What could be done now? The Ao Clan would definitely not let things go like that!

But after only an instant, he made the decision to shield Ling Han with all his effort.

The Yue Clan and the Ao Clan had been on fair terms twenty years ago, and had even advanced to the level that they wanted to ally their clans through marriage, but after Yue Hong Chang's matter had happened, the relations between the two clans swiftly deteriorated.

Currently, the two clans would oppose each other in all aspects and compete in everything, and the Yue Clan was now obviously at disadvantage.

If they were comparing the older generation, Ao Feng dominated over Yue Zhen Shan, and in the younger generation, those Seven Sons of Ao Family were all stronger than Yue Kai Yu, and the gap between the two clans was not small in any way.

It was all thanks to the fact that their elders were at a tie, and the deciding factor was the ability of the Spiritual Infant Tier. Thus, even if the younger generations of the Yue Clan were not as strong, they were still able to stand on equal footing with the Ao Clan—at least, this was true now, while the Elder of the Yue Clan was still

alive.

But the problem was, if the Yue Clan continued to wither in this manner, or if the younger generation of the Ao Clan completely developed, then the Yue Clan would definitely lose in the competition between the two clans.

The Yue Clan had really put in enough effort. For example, Yue Kai Yu had obviously obtained more cultivation resources than the Seven Sons of Ao Family, but why was his cultivation still at the eighth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier? That was because he had continued to suppress it and did not make any attempt to break through yet, intending to solidify his foundation and trying his best to perfect his cultivation at the level of the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Yue Kai Yu's talent was not too bad, but he was not so talented as to defy logic. Furthermore, he alone was standing against seven opponents, so his chance of winning was really miniscule.

Yet it was at this moment that Ling Han had appeared.

His talent defied logic and he had the backing of an alchemist. More importantly, right from the start, he was already on the opposite side of the Ao Clan. Thus, Yue Kai Yu wanted to befriend Ling Han. Who knew, perhaps he would become a strong weight on the power balance against the Ao Clan in future.

Now that Ling Han had killed Ao Zi Tai, on the surface, he had made a life-or-death enmity with the Ao Clan, but in truth, wasn't this a chance for the Yue Clan? A chance for the Yue Clan and Ling Han to become real allies.

Chapter 351: Ao Feng Appears

"What are you planning to do?" Yue Kai Yu exclaimed darkly. Since he had made his decision, he displayed the decisiveness that was characteristic of a member of a Great Clan.

"He killed Junior Sister Zi Tai, we will kill him to avenge her!" the crowd shouted in fury.

"Insolence!" Yue Kai Yu humphed coldly. "Is the sect the kind of place that allows you all to have fights in private? It is naturally up to the sect to judge whether Junior Brother Han has committed a crime, so how could you all be allowed to make trouble?!"

"That's right. This is indeed something to be handled by the sect!" A clear voice rang out, and all of a sudden, there was another person in the courtyard, and none of them actually managed to see how he had suddenly appeared.

Of course, Ling Han was the exception.

"Greetings, Attendant Ao!" When the masses saw the newcomer, they all raised their clasped hands to pay their respects.

Ling Han was a little surprised. So this was Ao Feng?

He turned his eyes to the newcomer, and saw that it was a man who looked to be in his forties. He was quite tall and slender, his complexion as clear as jade, and looked extremely handsome. Furthermore, he had an elegant bearing, and could very easily make women fall for him. No wonder he could be a stud. His appearance and bearing were both well above average.

Moreover, Ao Feng was also unusually talented in martial arts and already had one foot in the Flower Blossom Tier by now. That was already over a dozen years ahead of the greatly talented and bold Rain Emperor, which was proof enough of his extraordinary ability.

Of course, there were talented people in every generation, and

among the Seven Sons of Ao Family, at least Ao Xing Lai had already exceeded Ao Feng when the latter was at his age, and set against the whole north region, Lu Yang, Zhu Xuan Er, and Zuo Yu Da were even more dominating.

Ao Feng's eyes paused on Ao Zi Tai's body for quite a while. He had been a womanizer his whole life, with innumerable illegitimate children, and it was only these few years that he had exercised a bit of restraint. In truth, even he himself could not remember the names of every single one of his children.

However, there were a few outstandingly talented children that were precious to him.

One example was Ao Xing Lai and another was Ao Zi Tai.

A mere disciple who had just recently entered into the sect actually dared to kill his beloved daughter?

The more outraged Ao Feng was, the calmer his expression became. He said calmly, "It is a great breach of rules for a battle to commence in private within the sect. However, as an Attendant, I probably have the right to handle this matter, don't I? Isn't that right, Nephew Kai Yu?"

The aura of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier surged forth, and Yue Kai Yu erupted in an uncontrollable cold sweat. Ao Feng already had one foot in the Flower Blossom Tier and possessed a sliver of an immortal's aura. This made Yue Kai Yu feel as if there was a mountain weighing down on him. Even standing up was an exercise of willpower and force for him, but his legs were already uncontrollably shaking. How could he even speak now?

However, it was at this moment that Ling Han stepped out and stood in front of Yue Kai Yu, taking this kind of tremendous pressure onto his own shoulders.

Yue Kai Yu instantly felt lightened. He could not help but feel both thankful and worried, because no matter how much of a

monster Ling Han was, he was also in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier just like himself, so it was practically an impossibility for him to be able to take on the aura exuded from someone who was half a step away from the Flower Blossom Tier.

Yet Ling Han appeared extremely calm. Ao Feng wanted to use his aura to suppress him, someone who had once been in the Heaven Tier? He had better try it again when he had reached the level of someone like Sword Emperor or Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden.

He smiled calmly, and asked, "What does Attendant Ao plan to do to me?"

Hiss!

The crowd inhaled sharply at this and could not help but be secretly impressed by his courage.

In front of someone who was half a step away from the Flower Blossom Tier, Ling Han could still be so calm. He had to be exceedingly brave, and this point alone was worth them all giving him a thumbs up.

"A life for a life; naturally, the punishment is execution," Ao Feng said calmly as well. He was half a step away from the Flower Blossom Tier, and possessed absolute authority here.

Ling Han suddenly laughed loudly and said, "Ao Zi Tai plotted and intended to frame and set up both myself and Senior Brother Yue. I am the champion of the open trials this time round, and with my talent, it would be no issue for me to break through to the Spiritual Infant Tier in future. Senior Brother Yue is Grand Elder Yue's great grandson. Who are we? And how very important are we to the sect? Yet Ao Zi Tai actually wanted to frame us and accused us as despicable, lewd villains. Such a person... shouldn't she be executed?"

When everyone heard this, they could not help but twitch as they

all shared the same thought. They had seen some who had really thick skin, but they had never seen someone who would praise themselves to the extent that Ling Han had! He actually dared to exaggerate and claim that he would definitely break through to the Spiritual Infant Tier in future; this kind of boast was really mad!

However, those who had actually witnessed Ling Han's battles during daytime were nodding in agreement.

He, someone who was merely in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, could actually defeat all the Seven Sons of Ao Family. This guy's talent in martial arts could only be described with the word 'monstrous'. Furthermore, he was already in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier at the mere age of nineteen, and this kind of achievement could already be counted within the top hundred in the history of the Winter Moon Sect.

And among these hundred people, there were fifty-six that managed to break through to the Spiritual Infant Tier in the end, and there were thirty-one that had also reached the ninth layer of the Flower Blossom Tier.

As for the remaining thirteen?

It was either that they had vanished amongst the crowd, or died at a young age. Otherwise, they would have at least broken through to the Flower Blossom Tier.

History had already proved that Ling Han indeed had that kind of potential, and was not merely boasting.

Ao Feng was stunned. He had never imagined that Ling Han would actually still be able to speak so much with such a sure tone when he was under the pressure of his aura. However, he was not angered, because he possessed absolute power. What need was there for him to get angry when he had such power?

"I don't care, I only know that you've killed my daughter. No one can kill anyone from the Ao Clan, no one!" He moved, and hong , a

sharp brightness arose from behind him; his martial intent was at full power, forming what seemed to be a world of its own.

It was within this short instant that multiple thoughts streaked through Ling Han's mind.

Should he have the Black Tower instill power into him, or draw out the Demon Birth Sword, and kill this enemy directly? Or he could duck into the Black Tower and temporarily avoid confronting him directly, because he very much wanted to leave Ao Feng to Ling Dong Xing himself to deal with.

However, before he had come to a decision, he saw a huge crimson palm strike forth and parry Ao Feng's attack. "Humph, the Winter Moon Sect is not your private kingdom where you can do as you like."

Hong , a violent power surged forth, forming a brilliant light.

When the light had died out, another man had stood in front of Ling Han. He looked to be in his forties as well, with a sturdy hair and his black hair fluttering around him. He withdrew his fist, folded his arms behind him, and said, "I think that the fault lies with Zi Tai. As for Han Lin, he can only be claimed to be a bit too rash, so it would be enough for him to get a little black mark."

"Dad!" Yue Kai Yu immediately exclaimed in delight and surprise. What made him even happier was the fact that his father had obviously made the same decision as he had—that was to shield Ling Han to the best of their ability.

"Greetings, Attendant Yue!" Everyone once again greeted. The person that had come this time was, of course, Yue Zhen Shan.

Ao Feng looked at Yue Zhen Shan coldl, and asked, "Then my daughter has died for nothing?"

"Hoho, Senior Brother Ao, you have my condolences!" Yue Zhen Shan said without any sincerity in his words. "Although Niece Zi Tai has gone too far, but we should honor the dead. Thus, there is

no longer any need to pursue her fault in this matter."

Ao Feng was so angry that he looked like he wanted to breathe fire. Then, he said coldly, "Today, if this boy does not die, I will definitely not let matters go!"

"You have so many sons and daughters anyway, so it's not such a big issue if a few of them die," Yue Zhen Shan mumbled.

"What!?" Ao Feng instantly jumped up and raised a palm in a strike at Yue Zhen Shan, which attack transformed into eight eerily sharp blades. He was a swordsman, so even if he did not have a sword in his hands, every move he made was filled with sword intent.

When they heard Yue Zhen Shan's words, quite many felt some sympathy for Ao Feng, and secretly thought that it was rumored that Yue Zhen Shan was a brainless and straightforward character. The rumors were indeed true. How could he say such words in front of everyone?

Chapter 352: Punishment Decided

Yue Zhen Shan raised a palm to parry this strike and created seven flashes of Qi that transformed into seven giant crimson palms that flew forth towards those eight flashes of Sword Qi.

Pu, pu, pu, pu. The Sword Qi and the gigantic palms cancelled each other out. However, as Ao Feng had formed his eighth flash of Sword Qi, he was at an obvious advantage; the additional flash of Sword Qi continued its advance, forcing Yue Zhen Shan to dodge it.

This was an advantage born from a deeper comprehension of "Dao". They had shot out their attacks which had the same amount of force behind them at the same time, yet the one who had a stronger comprehension would still have a more powerful attack!

This was still only the gap when it was a clash between seven flashes and eight flashes of Qi. If it was a clash of one flash against eight flashes, or even zero against eight flashes of Qi, then the power gap would be as huge and overwhelming as the gap between Heaven and Earth. That was why those who managed to form seven flashes of Qi could be labelled as rulers.

Thankfully, the gap between seven and eight flashes of Qi was not especially obvious, and Yue Zhen Shan was not too far beneath Ao Feng in cultivation. As a result, though he would still be at a disadvantage against Ao Feng, he was still able to contend with the latter for quite a while.

This was the Winter Moon Sect, and if there really erupted a fierce battle between them, then one of the higher ranks would definitely appear to stop them.

"Yue Zhen Shan, are you sure you want to be my enemy?" Ao Feng suddenly jumped up in fury. "I am currently extremely angry! One of my daughters f***** died, and I want to kill this bastard!"

Yue Zhen Shan shook his head and said, "I haven't sparred with you for quite a long time, so I would like to see how far you've advanced now and whether you've degraded or not."

Ao Feng withdrew his furious expression, took a deep breath, and said, "You have never been able to rival me. That was the case in the past, now, and in future, it will still be so!" He widened his eyes, and there actually appeared two flashes of cold light that streaked out and tore through the open air as if they were real blades, creating power ripples.

Yue Zhen Shan did not dare to be careless. Ao Feng was indeed superior to him in power, and though this gap was not very large, if the former really put all his effort into a battle and he still proceeded carelessly, then there would be a great possibility that he would be defeated within a few moves.

"Come on then!" he said without a care. When elites battled, they would naturally contend with their real battle prowess, but one should not underestimate the power of words. This was a kind of stance, so it could not be weak.

"Heng!" It was at this moment that a powerful pressure pressed down on the area. An elder arrived by stepping on air. As his eyes swept over the group, his imposing gaze made both Ao Feng and Yue Zhen Shan instantly cease their battle.

This was an elite of the Flower Blossom Tier, and as his immortal aura swept over all of them, it made every single one of them feel utter reverence as if they were facing a god.

Ling Han glanced over; this elite of the Flower Blossom Tier was exactly He Zheng Chu, who had gone to Rain Country some time ago and fought a battle with the Rain Emperor, but in the end was chased out. And though they were both half a step away from the Flower Blossom Tier, the Rain Emperor was much more forceful than Ao Feng.

There was no way to compare the two. One was only the

Attendant of a great sect, and no matter how much power he had and how many disciples he had authority over, ultimately, he could not compare to one who was the Emperor of a whole country. Furthermore, the Rain Emperor was the kind of dominating ruler that appeared once in a few thousand years, and he had made full use of the power of the nation to its extreme.

He could not help but wonder how the Rain Emperor was now. With the latter's intelligence and outstanding courage, he should be close to breaking through to the Flower Blossom Tier, shouldn't he? Once he had broken through to the Flower Blossom Tier, he would be able to add an additional two hundred years to his lifespan. The Rain Emperor was only sixty years old now, and in terms of a lifespan of about three hundred years, that was equivalent to about twenty years old of an ordinary lifespan, so he was in the prime of his youth.

Perhaps it would not take a long time for him to hear rumors of a "young" elite gradually appearing, rushing through the north region, or even entering the other three regions and prefecture, displaying his elegant bearing and powerful presence as much as he desired.

"In this matter, the sect leader has already made a decision!" He Zheng Chu said emotionlessly, "It was Ao Zi Tai who had used a scheme to set up one of our disciples first, and now that she has been killed by Han Lin, she deserved it for her crime! However, Han Lin killed her in private, which is also a breach of the rules of the sect, so his punishment is to enter the Dark Devil Forest and collect seven stalks of Fiery Sun Grass in one year's time before he will be allowed to return."

That was the end of the matter?

Everyone was shocked. That was a daughter of the Ao Clan, and furthermore, she was not an insignificant illegitimate child, but a genius and talented princess! Yet Han Lin was only to go to the Dark Devil Forest and collect herbs; wasn't this punishment a little

too light?

However, there were some who were wearing cold smirks. That was the Fiery Sun Grass they were talking about here. It could only be found in the deepest parts of the Dark Devil Forest, and there would be demonic beasts of the Flower Blossom Tier there. Even an elite of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier would not dare to carelessly enter that part of the forest.

Moreover, the Fiery Sun Grass was an extremely rare herb. Collecting one stalk would take a very long time, and if one wanted to collect seven stalks, the time needed would be overwhelming. If one was lucky, that would take about one or two months. But if one was unlucky... then he'd best prepare himself to stay there for about a year and a half.

During this long period of time, how high were his chances to encounter a demonic beast in the Flower Blossom Tier?

Thus, while this was not a definite death sentence, it was still extremely dangerous.

...It was obvious. There was no way that a member of the younger generation of the Ao Clan could die for nothing, but in this matter, it was still Ao Zi Tai who was in the wrong. Furthermore, this involved Yue Kai Yu as well. Thus, the Elder of the Ao Clan must have interfered, which had led to this kind of punishment in the end.

"Junior Brother Han, I shall go with you!" Yue Kai Yu immediately declared, extremely loyal. He did indeed have this kind of character, and added with the fact that they had experienced a hardship together just now, he made the choice to go with Ling Han without any hesitation.

Ling Han nodded to Yue Kai Yu, yet wondered internally whether he should really enter the Dark Devil Forest. After all, he was only holding onto the false identity of "Han Lin", so there was no need for him to take the risk just to maintain this false cover.

He decided not to worry about that for the moment and see how things went. Anyways, he had nothing much to occupy his time currently.

Ao Feng humphed and stared for a very long time at Ling Han's face before he finally turned and left. There was nothing else he could do now. The Elder of the Ao Clan had obviously agreed to this final decision, and no matter how arrogant he was, he dared not oppose a decision made by their Clan Elder.

The Dark Devil Forest?

Heng, at most within three months, he would definitely be able to break through to the Flower Blossom Tier, and by that time, he would be able to charge into the deeper parts of Dark Devil Forest, find Ling Han, and kill him!

It was only another two or three months. He did not believe in the slightest that Ling Han would be able to procure seven stalks of Fiery Sun Grass in such a short period of time.

The crowd dispersed and went their separate ways. There was naturally someone who carried away Ao Zi Tai's body. Moreover, the passing of this goddess of the Winter Moon Sect had broken the hearts of who knew how many young men, so everyone wanted to have a moment of silence.

"Han Lin, within three days, you must leave the Winter Moon Sect. If you dare to escape secretly, the sect will definitely search the whole world and apprehend you," He Zheng Chu said, without knowing that the person in front of him was precisely that criminal that he had gone over to the Rain Country to apprehend some time ago.

When he had finished speaking, he immediately turned around and left. With his identity as one in the Flower Blossom Tier, he of course disdained spending pointlessly time on talking with a minor character like Ling Han.

"Junior Brother Han, we're in trouble this time!" Yue Kai Yu said, his brow wrinkled in a frown. He naturally knew the difficulty of collecting seven stalks of Fiery Sun Grass.

Ling Han frowned as well, and just when Yue Kai Yu thought that he too was troubled, he heard Ling Han say, "Who knows if I would still be able to get the Thunder Battle Armor tomorrow?"

Yue Kai Yu almost stumbled. Things were already like this, and you are actually still talking about the Thunder Battle Armor? He said in irritation, "Compared with entering the Dark Devil Forest to collect herbs, the Thunder Battle Armor is nothing!"

Ling Han smiled, and said, "With the Thunder Battle Armor, wouldn't it be safer for us?"

That sounded very reasonable. Yue Kai Yu scratched his head—he kept feeling like there was something off with that logic.

Chapter 353: Cripple

On the second day, Ling Han indeed still obtained the Thunder Battle Armor, which made him "extremely pleased".

Firstly, the Thunder Battle Armor was indeed a very valuable treasured tool, and years ago, Zi Xue Xian had worn it all day, treating it like it was a priceless treasure. Secondly, it was precisely because this was a Spirit Tool one of his old acquaintances had used before Ling Han felt very nostalgic.

He was reborn after 10,000 years, and all around him, the people he met were all strangers to him. Thus, when he saw an old possession of someone whom he had known years ago, how could he not be overwhelmed by emotions?

Then he'd just go to the Dark Devil Forest. Ling Han had made his decision.

The reason why he had come to the Winter Moon Sect was to find out where his mother was, bring trouble to the Ao Clan, and in passing, steal some good stuff—these three motives were practically fulfilled. He had collected a considerable number of Spiritual Herbs, and had even obtained the Thunder Battle Armor. He had defeated all the Seven Sons of Ao Family and killed Ao Zi Tai.

Lastly, since Yue Kai Yu was going with him, then he would naturally have a lot of time to probe for information. This cousin and his uncle had more or less the same personality. They were very forthright and straightforward people, and weren't really ones to keep secrets.

Thus, after he obtained the Thunder Battle Armor, Ling Han decided to set out.

Yue Kai Yu went with him, and looked to be in high spirits at that. It seemed that this guy had only left the sect for a trial twice,

and even during these two times, he had not gone too far. Thus, he had never really left on a long journey away from the sect.

Ling Han sighed. This guy said he wanted to help him, but the best he could hope for was that he wouldn't hold him back.

He and Yue Kai Yu set out together and descended the mountain.

"Ling Han!" However, they had just arrived at the foot of the mountain when they suddenly heard a voice filled with venom ring out behind them.

Yi, this voice was... Feng Yan!

Ling Han did not turn around. He was now Han Lin, and not Ling Han.

"You actually still dare to come here, die!" Feng Yan roared furiously, drawing his saber and delivered a strike at Ling Han. Xiu, xiu, xiu . There actually appeared six flashes of Saber Qi that transformed into six cold bright sharp blades that charged towards Ling Han.

This guy had improved very fast. At that time in the Rain Country, he had only formed four flashes of Saber Qi, but now, he had shockingly reached the level of six flashes. Looks like after Ling Han crippled one of his legs, he had received a huge provocation, which boosted his comprehension in his saber arts.

Shua , cold Qi spread throughout the air, and the severe, fierce Saber Qi streaked through the air, making for a very terrifying spectacle.

"Are you crazy?!" Because he was standing together with Ling Han, Yue Kai Yu was naturally in the vicinity of this attack as well. Furthermore, the name that Feng Yan had called out was incomprehensible. He naturally would not think that it had any relation to Ling Han, and only thought that they had encountered a maniac, so he immediately delivered his own punch.

His arms immediately transformed and looked like they were

made of black iron. Martial intent transformed into patterns that shone on his arms, and six flashes of Fist Qi shot forth.

Peng!

The fist parried the saber's blade and the Fist Qi clashed with the Saber Qi, cancelling each other out.

Feng Yan's gaze tensed. He said, "Who are you, and why are you defending this person?"

Yue Kai Yu glanced over and could not help but be astonished, because even though this person was a cripple who had obviously lost one of his legs, he now had a prosthetic attached, and his pants' leg revealed a bit of a white-colored metal, which had a circular shape and stood on the ground.

His eyes swept over the symbol on Feng Yan's sleeve, and he could not help but be even more astonished as he mumbled, "When has our Winter Moon Sect started to take in cripples? Furthermore, this cripple looks really powerful!"

He was straightforward in his speech, and when he said this "cripple", he was only saying things as they were, so in truth, he did not have any intention to insult him. However, when Feng Yan heard this, this "cripple" sounded as if it was filled with malice.

"You are seeking death!" Feng Yan's eyes sharpened, and he was just about to deliver another attack.

Ling Han turned around and said, "Do you have some kind of problem? You plan to jump into a battle right from the moment you see us; do you have no recognition for the rules of the sect?"

Feng Yan paused. When he saw Ling Han's back, it was a hundred percent like his great enemy's, but why was there such a huge difference the moment he turned around? This youth, or rather young man, did not have an outstanding appearance, and there was a great difference between his face and Ling Han's.

But why... did his voice give him such a familiar feeling, and his

back looked so much like Ling Han's? Furthermore, this expression—the tone that he used to speak—was filled with the feeling that he detested.

"I was mistaken." Multiple thoughts streaked through his head, yet in the end, he only said this.

"Crazy!" Yue Kai Yu glared angrily at him. He was the eldest grandson of the Yue Clan, yet for some unfathomable reason, he was attacked, which made him very displeased. But when he recalled the mission that he and Ling Han had, he did not currently have the time to call Feng Yan to accounts, so he said, "I have something to do now, and I will deal with you when I come back!"

As he spoke, he tugged Ling Han and planned to leave.

When he saw Ling Han's back, killing intent once again appeared on Feng Yan's face. He turned and looked at a disciple who was standing at the roadside and asked, "Who are these two?"

"Who are you, and why should I tell you?" that disciple asked with his head held high, very displeased with Feng Yan's attitude.

Feng Yan's eyes sharpened and a terrifying aura exuded from him, which immediately made that disciple shiver in fear. He hurriedly answered, "The slightly older one is Yue Kai Yu, Senior Brother Yue. He is Grand Elder Yue's great-grandson, and the other one is called Han Lin. He has just entered the sect two days ago, but he is the kind to attract trouble. He has just arrived, and has already killed Attendant Ao's beloved daughter, and now has been punished to enter the Dark Devil Forest to collect Fiery Sun Grass."

Feng Yan's right index finger suddenly flicked, and his killing intent spread. Han Lin, Ling Han, wasn't that precisely the other way round? Furthermore, he was a newly entered disciple, yet was so outrageously bold that he dared to kill the daughter of an Attendant. This was very similar to Ling Han's personality.

He immediately leaped up and left, heading towards the White

Cloud Peak. This was where all the higher ranks of the Winter Moon Sect lived. If one wanted to enter here, one at least had to be in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, or be the personal disciple of an elite of the Spiritual Infant Tier or the Flower Blossom Tier. Not even Yue Kai Yu was qualified to live here.

Feng Yan found the place where the information for the sect's disciples were recorded, directly drew out the personal token of Grand Elder Shi, and made the request to look at Ling Han's information.

Suspicious were still only suspicions, after all. He wanted solid proof.

"Han Lin, nineteen years old. He's from Return Origin Mountain, and was at the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier upon his entry into the sect." As Feng Yan read, a sliver of a cold smirk appeared at his lips, and he said, "Send someone to the Return Origin Mountain to verify this person's information."

"Young Master Yan, isn't that a bit of making a big fuss over a small issue?"

"Do as I say, or do I need to ask my master to speak with you?"

"I wouldn't dare!"

When Feng Yan left, his expression was dark. "Han Lin, if you are really Ling Han, I will definitely have you die in the Winter Moon Sect because you have sought your own death. Since you've concealed your identity, when I kill you, I would have only killed a minor character named Han Lin! Heng, heng!"

...

Ling Han and Yue Kai Yu set out, and headed towards Sea Breeze City. It was unknown how long they would spend on this trip to the Dark Devil Forest, so naturally, he had to go and get Liu Yu Tong and the others first. Anyways, Yue Kai Yu did not know anyone of their group.

To avoid being targeted by Ao Feng, Yue Zhen Shan even escorted them personally, and he only returned to the Winter Moon Sect after they had left the boundaries of the Yu Long Mountains without spotting any sign of Ao Feng. That was because even if Ao Feng's daughter had died, it was no matter, since he still had a considerable number of children left. But in his case, he only had this one son.

The two of them arrived at the Sea Breeze City, an extremely large city. It was a dozen times larger than even the Imperial City of the Rain Country. The city walls that were over a hundred metres tall cast a long shadow on the ground, and the whole city seemed like a colossal beast crawling.

"I need to go and find a few friends first," Ling Han said.

"All right," Yue Kai Yu said without thinking too much about it, not worried that Ling Han could sell him off.

Chapter 354: Who's Better at Picking Up Girls

Ling Han soon found the inn that Liu Yu Tong and the others were staying at. Coincidentally, Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were coming down from upstairs together right at that moment. They looked like they were planning to have something to eat. It was almost noon, so the time was just right for lunch.

"Wa, two great beauties!" Yue Kai Yu instantly blew a whistle.

Ling Han rolled his eyes and said, "They have a silk veil over their faces, and you can still see that they are beauties?"

"Hehe, you should trust my eyes. Since I've said that they're beauties, then they're definitely beauties!" Yue Kai Yu patted Ling Han's shoulder with a grin and said, "You just wait here, and let Big Brother Yu show you a few tricks to pick up a girl."

Ling Han's expression became a little strange, and he asked, "You want to pick the two of them up?"

"One would not be too few, and two would not be too many. Learn a bit... ai, you're so tanned, and though you don't look ugly, you're still too far away from being handsome. Looks like you won't be able to learn Big Brother Yu's wisdom," Yue Kai Yu said, shaking his head.

Ling Han laughed, and asked, "Aren't you worried that you would pierce my fragile heart by saying that?"

"As a human being, the most important thing is to face up to reality. You indeed don't look very appealing, and there is too much of a gap between the handsome, dashing looks that your Big Brother Yu has. Forget it, let's not talk about this, you first observe the skill your Big Brother Yu has in picking up girls." Then Yue Kai Yu took big strides towards Liu Yu Tong and the girls.

However, in a short while, he returned gloomily, looking

downhearted.

"How was it? Were you rebuffed?" Ling Han glanced over and saw that Hu Niu was still waving her claws and baring her teeth at Yue Kai Yu, but when Ling Han caught her eye, the little girl couldn't help but tilt her head and look him over.

This little girl really had terrifying instincts. After he had changed his appearance, even Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan had not noticed the slightest oddness about him, but Hu Niu seemed to have discovered something was strange about him but had yet to confirm her suspicions.

"Don't remind me. Let's drink, no one is going home without getting drunk!" Yue Kai Yu looked as if he had had his heart broken.

Ling Han smiled faintly and said, "Why don't I show off a few of my tricks as well and let you see what is really the best trick to pick up a girl?"

"Ha, ha!" Yue Kai Yu naturally did not believe his words, and laughed sarcastically at him. "If you're able to sit with them, then I'll be convinced!"

"What's so difficult about that?" Ling Han clapped a hand on his shoulder and said, "You go find us a table first, and wait while I go and bring them over."

Pu!

Yue Kai Yu choked in laughter and said, "Junior Brother Han, ah, Junior Brother Han. I am very impressed with your battle prowess, but your ability at making boasts seems to be even more awesome! All right, if you can bring them over, I'll call you Big Brother from now on!"

"That's what you've said, so you better not regret it," Ling Han said, shaking his head.

"Yes, that's what I said. Go on then!" Yue Kai Yu looked like he

was waving him off in a farewell.

Without another word, Ling Han walked towards the table that Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were seated at, whereas Yue Kai Yu was watching from one side while looking for an empty table to sit at. Naturally, a waiter soon approached and asked for his order.

How big could the dining hall in an inn be? With a few steps, Ling Han had arrived in front of the table that Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were sitting at.

"My two Misses, may I sit down?" Ling Han asked with a smile.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan simultaneously looked displeased at this. Even if they had veiled their faces, he could still see their slender brows were wrinkled in a frown. It was not that they had never seen skirt-chasers before, but it was the first time they had seen one that was brave enough to directly sit at their table with them.

"No," Li Si Chan said coldly.

Meanwhile, Liu Yu Tong directly stretched out a slender, jade finger and pointed in the direction of the main door. Her meaning was obvious, and that was for him to "get lost".

Yue Kai Yu laughed loudly. He was rebuffed previously, and so naturally did not believe that Ling Han, a guy who did not look in any way outstanding and additionally was so tanned, could succeed. Otherwise, wouldn't that imply that his charms were too inferior and that he could not measure up to even Ling Han?

Ling Han was not discouraged, he turned to Hu Niu and asked, "Little beauty, may I sit beside you?"

Hu Niu did not say another word and directly moved her behind, eking out space on what had originally been a long bench that could only accommodate one person.

Pu!

This time, it was Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan's turn to choke. They had originally thought that even if Hu Niu did not explode, she would still ignore this stranger. They had even prepared themselves to restrain Hu Niu together so as to ensure that the little girl did not hurt anyone.

Yet they had never imagined that the little girl would have this kind of reaction.

This, this, this... had Hu Niu been bewitched?

As the two girls looked dumbstruck, Ling Han had already sat down. He knew that Hu Niu had already recognized him. He laughed and teased Hu Niu. The little girl was very cooperative, and very soon, she squeezed into his arms and acted spoiled.

Pa , Yue Kai Yu could not help but drop the chopsticks he was holding and his face twitched uncontrollably.

Damn, he had taken everything into account, yet left out a little girl from his calculations.

Young beauties indeed would not like Ling Han's type, tanned and with rather ordinary looks, but what would a little girl know about what a handsome man looked like! He never imagined that his Junior Brother Han was so good with kids.

Thankfully, he had only sat at the same table with the two young beauties, but it was practically impossible for him to bring them over.

There was no need for him to address Ling Han as Big Brother.

Phew, he almost met with an unexpected failure.

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan were both very baffled. Hu Niu extremely rejected the approach of any strangers, and if it was not because for Ling Han, even they would not be able to get close to this little girl. Yet why was it that an unfamiliar man was able to make Hu Niu act so defenseless, and act so spoiled and warm as if the man was Ling Han?

Yi, could it be?

The eyes of the two girls lit up at the same time. They both knew that Ling Han had changed his appearance and went to the Winter Moon Sect, so did that mean that this young man in front of them was...

"Ling Han mean, left for so long, and not play with Niu!" It was at this moment that they heard Hu Niu say with much displeasure as she bit Ling Han's hand to express her dissatisfaction.

Indeed!

The two girls finally understood, and secretly felt ashamed as well. They were both very deeply in love with Ling Han, yet they had not recognized their beloved when he was standing in front of them. On the other hand, Hu Niu was able to recognize him with a single look. How could they bear with that?

Ling Han smiled faintly, tousled Hu Niu's hair, and said, "All right, I'll play more often with Niu Niu in future."

Hu Niu knew how to act spoiled, but would never throw an unreasonable tantrum. She immediately stopped frowning and gave Ling Han a very sweet smile.

F***, was this little girl transformed from some kind of vixen? That was really too cunning of her. Like that, Ling Han would definitely feel apologetic and dote even more on this little girl.

The two girls exchanged a look and could not help but feel alert in their minds. They definitely could not overlook Hu Niu just because she was little, because a little girl would very soon grow up to become a young girl. With Hu Niu's possessiveness, by that time, the two of them might not even be able to get within ten metres of Ling Han.

Ling Han nodded at the two girls, and said, "My name now is Han Lin, and that guy over there is my cousin, but he does not know who I am. Come with me."

Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan instantly looked shy, but they still stood up and followed Ling Han back to where Yue Kai Yu was sitting.

Pa , the chopsticks that Yue Kai Yu had just picked up not too long ago fell back onto the table. His face twitched, and it looked like his eyes were practically popping out of his head.

This, how, how was this possible!?

They were really conned over by this guy? Hiss, no matter how he looked at this Junior Brother Han, there wasn't any particularly outstanding part to him, was there? Or did the women nowadays prefer the ordinary, tanned type?

Chapter 355: Information about Mother

Ling Han sat down, holding Hu Niu in his arms. The little girl was acting spoiled and clinging to him without any intention of coming down from his arms. Meanwhile, Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan sat on either side of him. The four of them coincidentally occupied all four sides of the table.

"Senior Brother Yue, looks like you will have to change how you address me in the future," Ling Han said, laughing.

Yue Kai Yu felt like he was about to go crazy. He turned to Li Si Chan and said, "Has this guy promised you some benefits to make you sit here? Let me tell you, this guy is a liar; he's both poor and ugly!"

To save his face as a senior brother, he did not care for anything else anymore and began to disparage Ling Han's character.

Li Si Chan took off her face veil, and instantly, her delicate features were revealed. It was as if she herself was a deity, pleasing to anyone who saw her. She smiled faintly, and said, "I would have to disappoint Senior Brother Yue. I'm here of my own accord."

Liu Yu Tong was not to be outdone, either, and she similarly removed her face veil and said, "So am I."

The reason why they had worn face veils was simply because they had not wanted to attract unnecessary trouble with their outstanding beauty, but now that Ling Han had returned, there was naturally nothing for them to be afraid of.

Yue Kai Yu could not help but gape with his mouth wide open. He had long foreseen that these two girls were great beauties, but still had not expected that they would be beautiful to this level. They were not in the least bit inferior to Ao Zi Tai in terms of beauty. Thankfully, he was not the kind of man who would be completely unable to move upon seeing a beautiful girl. He very quickly

returned to his senses, gave Ling Han a thumbs up, and said, "You're awesome. I'm convinced!"

"Hehe, don't you continue teasing Senior Brother Yue anymore," Liu Yu Tong said to Ling Han.

Yue Kai Yu stared blankly for a moment before he immediately understood, and said, "So the two of them are your friends."

Ling Han laughed loudly, and said, "Senior Brother Yue is finally clever for once!"

"F***, I was just thinking how could your charms be so powerful that you're able to abduct two great beauties upon your first meeting; so it appears that you know each other!" Yue Kai Yu shook his head repeatedly, but also heaved out a breath of relief.

It was not that he was not as charming as Ling Han, but there was another reason for his defeat. Furthermore, since they had known each other early on, then the bet they had made should of course not be taken seriously.

Ling Han was also just joking around with Yue Kai Yu. He turned to look at Liu Yu Tong, and asked, "Where are Big Brother Guang, Can Ye, and Wu Jiu?"

"Wu Jiu and Can Ye have already eaten, but Big Brother Guang..." Li Si Chan paused slightly. "He seems to have suffered some kind of blow, and has looked dispirited for quite a few days already."

Ling Han nodded and said, "I'll go take a look at him later. However, the important thing now is to make Senior Brother Yue drunk."

"Why do you want to make me drunk?" Yue Kai Yu asked very innocently.

"Is it not worth getting drunk for the sake of seeing two such beautiful girls?" Ling Han asked with a smile.

"Hehe, then let's get drunk!" Yue Kai Yu was an unrestrained

person in the first place, and those with straightforward personalities usually tended to like drinking. Thus, he immediately smacked the table, and called out, "Waiter, get us some good wine."

However, his lack of restraint did not persist for too long. With the repeated encouragements to drink from Ling Han and the others, he was soon completely drunk. He was swaying on his seat, and could not even distinguish how many people were on Ling Han's side.

Ling Han reserved a room and helped Yue Kai Yu inside. He wanted to continue to probe for information for his mother's location.

"... My aunt? My aunt is imprisoned in the Black Water Prison." Now that Yue Kai Yu was drunk, he could not keep any secrets at all. He immediately answered when asked, which made Ling Han shake his head. In future, he should either keep him ignorant of any important matters, or ensure that Yue Kai Yu would not get drunk. Otherwise, it was as if this guy's mouth had no closing, and would spill everything out.

"Where is the Black Water Prison? And what kind of environment is that?" Ling Han asked. At the same time, he felt anger. His mother was actually held in a prison, which made him almost go berserk and rage.

"The Black Water Prison is where the sect imprisons criminals; the majority of the inmates are enemies of our sect, but there are also disciples who have betrayed the sect." Yue Kai Yu shook his head dizzily. "When I was little, I could still visit aunt, but those bastards from the Ao Clan kept squeezing us out. It was only three years ago that aunt was imprisoned into the Black Water Prison, and from then on, I could no longer visit aunt. Wu, wu, wu, my pitiful aunt. She is forced apart from her husband and child, and has been imprisoned in a place with complete darkness! These ***** bastards from the Ao Clan, when I reach the Spiritual Infant Tier, I'll strangle each one I see!"

Ling Han nodded. This cousin was on his side. "How are the defenses of the Black Water Prison?"

"You want to break into the prison? That's impossible!" Yue Kai Yu shook his head repeatedly, as if he wanted to shake his head off his shoulders. "There are two elites of the Flower Blossom Tier who take turns to stand guard there, and even a fly would not be able to fly in without their knowledge!"

Ling Han could not help but tap the table in thought. It looked like that he would at least need to have the battle prowess of the Flower Blossom Tier before he would be able to break into the Black Water Prison and rescue his mother.

Damn, he obviously knew that his mother was currently suffering in prison, yet he could only sit by helplessly and watch.

Yue Kai Yu did not have too bad of a drunken disposition. He was not the type to behave wildly when drunk, and very soon, he had started snoring loudly. Ling Han walked out of the room and went to find Liu Yu Tong and the others.

Zhu Wu Jiu and Can Ye were already aware that he had come over, and had been waiting for him for some time.

Ling Han asked about their cultivation progress, drew out the Return Spirit Pills and passed them to them. He had never been a miser to his own people.

"Later, I will teach you some new martial arts techniques, you will only deserve the name of elites after you have strengthened your foundations in these techniques," Ling Han said. Since these few people were going to follow him, he naturally had to ensure that their battle prowess would improve.

Ling Han then went to see Guang Yuan. That this originally very rough and brash guy would actually close himself up in his room like a girl was indeed quite strange.

He pushed open the door and entered, and saw Guang Yuan was

sitting vacantly, his thoughts seeming to be far away.

"Big Brother Guang!" Ling Han stretched out a hand and waved it in front of him.

It was only later that Guang Yuan reacted. When he spotted Ling Han, he first experienced a scare, then looked alert before asking him doubtfully, "Ling Han?"

"It's me." Ling Han nodded. "What's wrong with you? What are you thinking of that has entranced you so?"

Guang Yuan hesitated for a while. He looked like he both wanted to speak, yet also seemed as if he didn't know where to start. In the end, he sighed, and said, "I met a person."

"An old lover?" Ling Han asked, smiling. Otherwise, he would not need to look so vacant. In this world, perhaps only the word 'love' would induce such torment upon one.

Guang Yuan laughed bitterly, and said, "It's my old lover's man!"

Er... this kind of development did not seem to be very wonderful.

Now that Guang Yuan had brought up the topic, it seemed as if he wanted to vent the frustration he was feeling, and could no longer keep it inside anymore. He began to talk non-stop. "When I was still young and came out of Rain Country, I journeyed around in the north region in search of a way to become stronger.

During that period, I met two people, they were both loose cultivators. The three of us formed our own group and journeyed together all the while, experiencing life and death together. One was called Duan Zheng Zhi and the other was called Nong Qing Yue.

Duan Zheng Zhi and I were brothers, but both of us fell for Qing Yue simultaneously. To avoid damaging our brotherhood, we agreed to have a martial arts competition, and whoever lost would automatically withdraw.

In that half year's time, I cultivated madly, and truly believed that I could defeat Duan Zheng Zhi. However, just a few days before our martial arts competition... Qing Yue came and told me that she has made her decision and chose Duan Zheng Zhi.

Thus, I naturally could only withdraw. However, not too long after, when Duan Zheng Zhi was drunk, I found out that he had used underhanded means and gotten Qing Yue, forcing her to have no choice but to choose him!

"My fury could not be restrained, and I gave Duan Zheng Zhi a severe thrashing. Then I went to find Qing Yue, and told her I did not care about the matter between her and Duan Zheng Zhi as long as she agreed to leave with me.

However, she did not agree. Downhearted, I decided to return to the Rain Country.

In a flash, close to twenty years had passed. A few days ago, I actually encountered Duan Zheng Zhi, yet he actually told me that Qing Yue has been dead for three years!"

Chapter 356: Memory Crystal

Ling Han considered the matter for a moment, then asked, "You suspect that Qing Yue had not died naturally?"

"Qing Yue's talent in martial arts exceeded even mine and Duan Zheng Zhi's, so how could she have possibly died from illness?" Guang Yuan shook his head immediately. "I am currently in the ninth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and Duan Zheng Zhi has even broken through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier; then no matter what, Qing Yue would at least have been in the Spiritual Ocean Tier three years ago. How could a martial artist in the Spiritual Ocean Tier fall ill and die from illness?"

Indeed, once a martial artist had broken through to the Element Gathering Tier, they would fall ill only in very rare circumstances. With Origin Power to protect their bodies, they would not be affected by ordinary ailments. Unless they were poisoned or injured by another, they would definitely live healthily all the way until they died of old age.

"Since you have suspicions, why don't you go and get to the bottom of the matter?" Ling Han asked.

"I fear remembering her when I see things related to her, and am afraid that the long suppressed old affections would emerge again," Guang Yuan said, shaking his head.

Ling Han laughed loudly, and asked, "How are you any better than that if you continue like this? Where does that Duan Zheng Zhi live now?"

"En, he settled here seven years ago, and has developed quite well since. The Duan Clan can be considered a considerably powerful party in the Sea Breeze City, with many elites of the Spiritual Ocean Tier under their banner," Guang Yuan said.

This was also one of the reasons why he had not made his way to

the Duan Residence. That was because if he made an official visit, he would not be received, and if he sneaked in, with so many elites in the Residence, should he be caught red-handed, how embarrassing would that be in front of his old love rival?

Ling Han broke out into a smile and said, "That's all right. We'll go take a look tonight, and conclude one of your preoccupations."

Guang Yuan thought the matter over and sighed, but did not refuse.

He indeed very much wanted to know how Nong Qing Yue had actually died. Otherwise, it felt as if he had a heavy stone weighing down on his heart. This matter has caused him to be unable to eat well or sleep well, and there were even signs that his cultivation was degrading these days.

After taking a look at all the members of his group, Ling Han entered the Black Tower.

He wanted to study the Thunder Battle Armor closely.

This battle armor looked like it was a vest. It did not have sleeves, and looked like it could only protect one's torso. It was also made from a material Ling Han could not identify. It was made from multiple silver-colored metal plates woven together with a metallic thread.

Upon close examination, every single metallic plate had a pattern on it. They were all different from each other, and looked a bit like the lettering on the Indestructible Heaven Scroll, but also looked as if they were drawings.

If that was really the case, then the Thunder Battle Armor would have come from a very important background. It was possible that it was not any mere Spirit Tool, but could possibly be a God Tool that had come from the realm of gods!

However, this battle armor was extremely severely damaged. There was a hole on the chest part, and when he compared it, it

was precisely the spot lying over the right side of the chest, where the heart was. In other words, someone had worn the Thunder Battle Armor yet had his heart pierced with a single strike from his opponent. The wearer had naturally died, whereas the battle armor experienced fundamental damage.

There was now no one capable of reviving the battle armor, but because the material it was forged from was definitely Level Nine or perhaps even Level Ten, it could not be penetrated by any kind of weapon. Thus, should one wear it, it could still be effective as a protective covering, which could be considered of little value when compared to its real worth.

If that hadn't been the case, how could the Winter Moon Sect possibly use it as a prize? However, it was originally arranged to be won by the Seven Sons of Ao Family, and this was also the result from the hardworking efforts of the Elder of the Ao Clan. Yet, unexpectedly, it had fallen into Ling Han's grasp in the end.

"Has the tool spirit vanished completely?" Ling Han injected his divine sense into the battle armor, and indeed, there was no sign of life from this Spirit Tool. The tool spirit no longer existed within.

"Nothing to be done if the tool spirit is dead. It's only that it cannot revive itself anymore." Ling Han rubbed a hand over the battle armor. "As long as my martial intent is strong enough, I will still be able to activate this battle armor. Moreover, I heard that there is a Thunder-aligned martial arts technique concealed within, though I don't know whether it's true or mere rumor."

"Let's see if I can activate it!"

The members of the Winter Moon Sect could not accomplish this feat because even the strongest of the Winter Moon Sect was only in the Spiritual Infant Tier, whereas this battle armor was at least a Level Nine Spirit Tool. But it was a different story for Ling Han. He possessed a sliver of divine sense of the Heaven Tier, plus he was currently in the Black Tower.

He injected his Origin Power into the Thunder Battle Armor, but there was no reaction. Then he poured his divine sense into it, and still there was no reaction.

Yi, this can't be right, even his divine sense of the Heaven Tier was actually unable to stimulate the martial intent within? Or was he unable to stimulate it because it was too severely damaged?

Then he could only use the power of the Black Tower.

With a thought from Ling Han, the Black Tower immediately reacted. Weng , the battle armor began to light up. One metallic plate after another, those patterns lit up and transformed into a language that was completely illegible to Ling Han.

He now understood slightly. This was not really letters, but a very high level martial intent, and if one wanted to try to figure it out, he would possibly need a few hundred, a few thousand, or even more than 10,000 years to do so.

It was the same for the Indestructible Heaven Scroll.

Yi?

He stilled slightly, and with another thought, he saw a very small crystal suddenly float in midair.

This was actually a space that the Thunder Battle Armor possessed on its own. It was revealed to him after he had activated it, and aside from this crystal, there was a small bottle, but who knew what it contained.

This crystal... Memory Crystal!

Ling Han recognized what it was, and was extremely surprised.

Once a Memory Crystal was activated, it could record everything that was happening around it, but it was only a one-time record. After that, the next time it was activated, one would be able to observe every single detail that happened every minute, every second, and from every angle, as if one was observing from the

point of view of a god.

This Crystal was extremely valuable, and was ordinarily used to record when an ultimate elite was practicing his techniques, which would then be recorded by the Crystal and passed on to later generations.

Ling Han looked at it closely. There was a black line on the Memory Crystal, which meant that this Crystal had been used once before. Otherwise, it would be completely clear and pure.

He immediately injected his divine sense into it. Weng , he instantly appeared in an unfamiliar environment. In this environment, he did not have a physical body, but could move according to his will and appear anywhere he liked. However, this environment was only about a mile-size circle, and there was a completely white space outside of this single mile.

That was because that the Memory Crystal could only record events as they happened within this limited space.

Ling Han's eyes swept over, and instantly looked shocked. A girl with long purple hair was currently speeding through the wilderness, bringing rapid change to the scene. Thus he confirmed that the Memory Crystal had to be on her, which was why she was the central part of this scene and could cause changes to the scene.

And this girl was precisely Zi Xue Xian, one of the seven elites of the Heaven Tier from his last life.

This had obviously happened after Ling Han had been obliterated by the Black Tower, because Zi Xue Xian's ability... was unfathomable. Not even Ling Han could fully figure out her true prowess, but the Memory Crystal was very vividly recording the fluctuations in her aura.

Ling Han deduced that this aura was weaker than the Asura Demon Emperor's and Zi Xue Xian should have broken through to the Shattering Void Tier.

Indeed, after he "died", there should have happened a revolutionary change to their environment, which allowed Sword Emperor and the others to charge all the way into the Shattering Void Tier. Even that crazy disciple of his, Jiang Yue Feng, managed to take this step, and they could have possibly shattered the void and entered into the realm of gods!

However, there was an obvious anxiety in Zi Xue Xian's expression, and from the look of her, she seemed like she was fleeing!

One of the elites of the Heaven Tier from his last life, who had even broken through to Shattering Void Tier, was actually fleeing?

Why was she fleeing? And what enemy was she fleeing from?

Chapter 357: Zi Xue Xian

Sword Emperor? Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden? Setting Sun Saber Emperor?

Ling Han watched on patiently. Currently, what Zi Xue Xian was wearing was precisely the Thunder Battle Armor. Moreover, it was still a completely undamaged one, and there were flashes of white lightning flickering all over, making her seem as if she was a heroic war goddess.

Ling Han discovered, much to his shock, that Zi Xue Xian had extraordinarily long ears that were sticking up tall and proud like a rabbit's ears, whereas her eyes were exuding a white light, as if they were a pair of electric balls!

Although he had not seen Zi Xue Xian many times, he still remembered clearly that Zi Xue Xian should not look too different from an ordinary human being, unlike now when her ears were sharp and long and it seemed as if her eyes had electricity running through them! Strange, how was he so sure that this girl was Zi Xue Xian with just one look?

The first proof was her hair. Ling Han had only seen one person with purple-colored hair. The second one was her face. Even if her eyes were both shining like there was electricity in them, that face was still Zi Xue Xian's. And the third was the Thunder Battle Armor—it was her symbol.

Ling Han had to admit—though this appearance was a little strange, it was also a different kind of beauty. At least, it was not something that Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan could rival.

"They're going to catch up!" Zi Xue Xian said suddenly. She was naturally not talking to Ling Han, but she activated the Memory Crystal and was currently in the process of recording. "I can sense their aura."

Sure enough, three figures appeared in the distance, and they were extremely fast. They seemed to walk calmly step by step, but each step would cross a distance of a hundred miles, as if they were able to shrink the distance into mere inches.

Zi Xue Xian was not slow, but the speed of these three people was faster, and in a short while, the distance between the two sides had shortened to half a mile.

One of the three pursuers, a middle-man said, "Zi Xue Xian, you are a genius of our race, so why do you want to commit treachery? What has the destruction of the human race have to do with you?" He had a head of white hair and his eyes were shining white, as if they were electric balls.

The difference was that there was a purple vein on his forehead, which looked as if it was borne from his anger, but also seemed to be formed naturally. It was not only him. The other two old men also had such veins, which were also on the forehead.

The first words were enough to give Ling Han a shock, the destruction of the human race?

If any other had said such vicious words, Ling Han would merely think it was nonsense or bragging. But these three old men... none of the three of them had an aura weaker than Zi Xue Xian, and that was the aura of at least the Shattering Void Tier.

Three elites of the Shattering Void Tier combined forces; that was really enough firepower to eliminate every single living thing in this world!

"I have lived here for more than three hundred years, and have long become part of this world. How could I stand by and watch as you all do such an insane deed?" Zi Xue Xian asked coldly, though she was still moving extremely fast.

Obviously, her intentions were not to engage into a verbal battle, but deliberately using the Memory Crystal to create a record.

"Heng, you are one of our Purple Lightning Race, and you will be for your whole life," the old man on the left side said, his face cold.

"We can talk calmly. No matter what, Xue Xian is one of our race's outstanding geniuses in the lower realm. Even if she returned to our ancestral land, she would still be exceptional. Xue Xian, I know you are only momentarily confused, why don't you quickly come to your senses?" the old man on the right side said with a gentle smile.

They were just right. One played nice, while the other played mean.

Lower realm?

Ling Han's heart trembled. These three old men were not as simple as mere elites of the Shattering Void Tier, but could even possibly come from the realm of gods! Hiss, that was extremely possible, the ability of these three were above even the Shattering Void Tier... gods!

...Zi Xue Xian was in the Shattering Void Tier, but she did not have a purple vein on her forehead. Perhaps that was a symbol that only a god would possess. Aside from that, their auras were stronger than Zi Xue Xian's and they were much faster.

All these factors added together made Ling Han come up with the deduction that these three were gods.

However, it seemed that gods didn't seem as strong as he had imagined. Putting aside the Asura Demon Emperor who had been split into nine parts and suppressed for millenia, these three old men should be in their best condition, yet why had they still been unable to subdue Zi Xue Xian after such a long time?

"You do not have to waste your breath. As long as I, Zi Xue Xian, am alive, I will definitely stop you!" Zi Xue Xian said firmly.

"Then don't blame me for being merciless!" The eyes of the old man standing in the center grew fierce and his right hand grabbed

at empty air. With a zi , a white electrical spear actually formed. Patterns lit up along its body, and it exuded a terrifying aura.

Even though Ling Han was a mere observer, he felt as if he was experiencing the real thing. If he was really physically there, merely this aura would be enough to kill him—even if he was still the Heaven Tier elite he had been in his last life.

In front of real power, he was still too weak.

With a wave of the hand of the old man, this electric spear shot towards Zi Xue Xian.

With a soft exclamation, a circle of electrical light appeared around Zi Xue Xian, which flung out her slender body. She had not only increased her speed, but also changed her course. Just when Ling Han thought that she would be able to dodge this attack, he saw that electric spear also change direction and continue to fly towards Zi Xue Xian's ****.

When he looked at Zi Xue Xian, however, that burst of speed was definitely an excessive move for her. It made her face extremely pale, and there also appeared a sliver of blood at the corner of her mouth. It was definitely impossible for her to make that move again.

The electric spear chased up to her, and she could only turn around to parry it, putting on a scene of flashing lightning bolts. Zi, zi, zi could be heard continuously, and martial intent transformed into multiple electric seals. Ling Han had broken out into cold sweat merely just from watching. This was enough to kill him over a hundred times in his last life.

The lightning spear reached its target, yet was blocked by a curtain of thunder. However, with such a pause, those three old men managed to come closer, and the four of them were suddenly embroiled in a fierce battle.

These three old men were indeed stronger, and it was as if they

had an endless pool of power. Yet they gave Ling Han the feeling that they seemed to be deliberately exercising restraint, and had not used all their battle prowess. As a result, even with the three of them combining forces, they were still unable to capture Zi Xue Xian.

"Heng, this despicable Power of Regulation; it had suppressed our abilities!" The three old men seemed to be a bit displeased, and could not help but begin to complain.

Suppression from the Power of Regulation?

Multiple thoughts streaked rapidly through Ling Han's mind. With the level that he had reached in his last life, he was qualified enough to come into contact with some hidden secrets, especially when he had visited various ancient historical sites and obtained a large amount of information nearing the end of his last life.

There were some previous deductions by his predecessors. They had only been deductions, but combined with this scene that Ling Han was witnessing, Ling Han could definitely confirm with a nod that those deductions were true.

It was rumored that the realm of gods had its laws, whereas the mortal realm also had its own rules, and neither was to interfere with the other. Why was a Shattering Void Tier elite able to shatter the empty void and step into the realm of gods? It was not because a Shattering Void Tier elite was so strong that they could shatter the world, but because the power of the Shattering Void Tier had exceeded the limits the mortal realm could sustain, and thus would be rejected by the mortal realm, entering the realm of gods where limits were broader.

In the realm of gods, the world was sturdier and could withstand the strain of the level of gods.

In other words, it was a relatively easy process to traverse from the mortal realm to the realm of gods because the mortal realm would actively reject one's existence, which was equivalent to

helping the process—the prerequisite was that your ability had to reach the Shattering Void Tier, and it was that instant when there was a high chance that you would be able to break through and become a god.

However, it was difficult to traverse from the realm of gods and enter the mortal realm. Firstly, it was because the realm of gods was extremely sturdy and solid, so it would be very difficult to shatter the empty void. Secondly, the mortal realm naturally rejected those at the level of gods, and it was of course difficult to sail against the current.

Furthermore, even when one had arrived in the mortal realm, a god probably couldn't use the power on the level of gods. Instead, they would have to suppress their battle prowess. Otherwise, they would definitely be rejected by the mortal realm, and directly forced back to the realm of gods.

Ling Han immediately had a deduction. These three old men were indeed gods, but their powers had been suppressed. As a result, even though their power obviously exceeded Zi Xue Xian, it had still led to the scene unfolding in front of him now.

Chapter 358: Everything Was A Lie

Zi Xue Xian was currently engaged in a fierce battle with the three old men.

Ling Han was extremely shocked. Zi Xue Xian really deserved the name of a peerless genius. Though she was one person against three, she actually had the upper hand!

This would really make one grab their head and exclaim in utter shock. Someone in the Shattering Void Tier was actually capable of having the upper hand in a clash against three gods? But that was indeed the reality. Who asked this to be the mortal world, which would suppress the cultivation of gods? And if they were battling on the same level... the ability of a peerless genius to battle one stronger than herself could be displayed to the fullest.

However, gods were still gods after all. Even if their abilities were suppressed, they still had a bottomless pool of power at their fingertips. As long as they could drag out the battle long enough, then Zi Xue Xian would definitely be exhausted, and thus captured.

And the three old men did indeed do so. They merely continued to force Zi Xue Xian to endlessly expend her energy, neither too fast nor too slow.

Zi Xue Xian shouted repeatedly, and scoffed. The Thunder Battle Armor on her body released a white light that transformed into multiple dragons made of thunder that pounced in attack towards those three old men.

This was obviously a powerful move, and instantly made those three old men flustered. They only managed to destroy these thunder dragons after much effort. Zi Xue Xian took advantage of the opening and escaped the battle, though they caught up to her soon after and another fierce battle ensued.

Ling Han gritted his teeth. So it appeared that the Thunder Battle

Armor was actually a Level Ten Spirit Tool. If not, how could it possibly become a threat to three gods? Their battle prowess had indeed been suppressed, but that was still battle prowess on the level of the Shattering Void Tier. Against an opponent of the Heaven Tier, they'd be able to kill him with a few blows.

All those years ago, Zi Xue Xian could only be ranked fourth among the seven of them in the Heaven Tier. Had she done that deliberately to conceal her skill, or did Sword Emperor and the others also possess a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool that could dominate her Thunder Battle Armor?

Ling Han sighed. At that time, he had his whole focus on alchemy, and did not consider their ranking in terms of martial arts seriously at all. He had only thought that as long as he could break through to the Shattering Void Tier, he'd be able to push open the doors to the realm of gods and simultaneously suppress Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden, that "bandit". He had no idea that there was such a huge gulf between himself and the rest of them.

Now, he was very clear that he possessed battle prowess of over a dozen Battle Stars and the instillation of power from the Black Tower could raise his battle prowess to the next Tier, and that kind of battle prowess was practically enough to defy logic. As a result, he did not have any such trump card of martial arts in his last life, but was still able to rank as the seventh strongest in the world and stand equal to Sword Emperor and the others. Now that he thought about it, he felt himself flush.

'F***, a real man doesn't boast about his past achievements. If I ever see Sword Emperor and the others again, I will definitely thrash them until their backsides burst. Who asked me to spend all my energy on alchemy in my last life? In terms of achievements in alchemy, even Sword Emperor, Heavenly Phoenix Divine Maiden, and Na Lan Tu have to obediently address me as Grandmaster and beg me to concoct alchemical pills for them!'

Ling Han praised himself internally, then continued to watch the scene.

In truth, though the battle was fierce, it was only repeating endlessly by now. Zi Xue Xian could always turn the tables around in a dangerous situation by using the Thunder Battle Armor and force the three old men into a flustered chaos. She would then take advantage of the opening created and charge out of their siege, which made Ling Han feel a bit bored.

However, the events recorded in the Memory Crystal could only be "broadcast" according to the order in which they had happened, and there was no way to fast-forward, pause, slow-forward, or rewind. Thus, Ling Han could only watch quietly.

Yet, after quite a long time fighting, not only Ling Han was bored of watching the same scene repetitively, those three old men also appeared to have had enough.

"With the Thunder Battle Armor to protect her, if we continue to battle this way, we will not be able to subdue her!" the old man on the left side said.

"Indeed!" The old man on the right side agreed with a nod.

The old man in the center thought for a moment, then said, "Then I shall use a sliver of Divine Power and destroy this Thunder Battle Armor!"

"Then the regulations of this realm would immediately react and expel you, or even wound you severely," the old man on the left side said, frowning.

"We can no longer take that into account. If we allow her to expose the secret and the people of this realm were able to prepare themselves, it may ruin the plans that the clan has worked on for 10,000 years! Furthermore, if the reason for the failure lies on our side, those other parties will definitely create trouble for us!" the old man in the center said.

"Fine then, you must be careful!" The old man on the left side nodded.

"It's all right. I will control my power and use only enough to pierce through the Thunder Battle Armor, so the backlash that I will experience from the Power of Regulation would not be too severe!" The old man in the center wore a cold expression. A white electric light floated out of his white eyes, and all of a sudden, his aura spiked up madly.

It was only that one instant, and his power had completely surpassed the Shattering Void Tier!

God Tier!

This was the power of gods.

Ling Han sensed for the strength of this power, and in comparison, his power as one of the Heaven Tier in his last life was like a drop of water set against a great sea, not qualified to be compared against such power at all. Additionally, this kind of power had already far surpassed Asura Demon Emperor he had faced previously.

The other two old men simultaneously shot away, as if they would be implicated as well if they had stayed at their original positions.

They had reacted correctly.

A crack in the empty space appeared behind that old man without any prior signs, and immediately transformed into something like a gigantic mouth. It opened and closed abruptly, swallowing that old man into unknown depths.

Was that the expulsion from the power of the realm? It directly sent the old man out of this world!

Ling Han was delighted. The old man had yet to deliver his attack before being expelled by the power of the realm, so now that Zi Xue Xian had one powerful opponent less that she had to worry

about, she should definitely have a chance at winning! Yet he had barely finished this thought when he saw that the very instant before that crack closed up, a white lightning spear was rapidly shot out of it.

This was different from the previous attacks. This lightning spear was at least a hundred times stronger than before, and what was more terrifying was that there were patterns weaving around on this lightning spear and the might exuding from it was enough to make even one at the Shattering Void Tier shiver in fear.

This was the most terrifying attack of a god. It was not power, but rather martial intent, a martial intent that would completely crush its opponent.

Ling Han's expression took a swift turn. That old man had still managed to deliver his attack at the last instant right before he had been expelled by the power of the realm.

That was too terrifying!

Pu!

Zi Xue Xian was not given any opportunity to avoid nor parry. This spear directly pierced through her delicate body. So what if it was the Thunder Battle Armor she was wearing? A hole was still directly pierced through it.

Ling Han finally understood. So that was how the hole on the Thunder Battle Armor was created.

"Ah!" Zi Xue Xian screamed. She had received this blow right on her heart and this spear directly pierced through her chest, so her heart must have exploded. Even if she was in the Shattering Void Tier, she probably wouldn't live for much longer.

Ling Han could not help but tense. Could it be that Zi Xue Xian would fall here?

Xiu , yet Zi Xue Xian, on the other hand, ran like crazy, and as she removed the Thunder Battle Armor, she said, "Boundless

Mountain, Clear Harmony Palace Hall has the answer to all. Person of the future, everything that you've been told about in the past were lies. The real answer lies there, and you must obtain it. Otherwise, the calamity will be repeated!"

With a toss, the Thunder Battle Armor flew out through the sky, and her figure became smaller and smaller below, and soon disappeared without a trace.

Obviously, the Memory Crystal was on the Thunder Battle Armor.

The Thunder Battle Armor traversed over an immeasurable distance and finally fell down upon the ground. Every pattern had lost its brilliance, and it was as if it had become a most ordinary battle armor. This condition of stillness persisted for about a few days. Then, the scene suddenly stopped, which was probably because there was a limit to the information that the Memory Crystal could record. It was full.

Ling Han's divine sense automatically left the Memory Crystal and appeared back in the Black Tower. As the master of all in this place, he could very clearly judge that less than the time it takes to take a breath had passed.

Anything that happened in one's divine sense had no effect on real time. It was as if it was a dream. One might have dreamt of living a whole lifetime, but when one awoke, only a few hours had passed.

Uncountable guesses appeared in Ling Han's mind. He was also feeling a coldness that came from his very heart.

Chapter 359: Unsealing the Battle Armor

According to historical records, more than nine thousand years ago, a massive chaos occurred, a tremendous calamity in which uncountable people died. As a result, a lapse appeared in the fields of martial arts and alchemy. Afterwards, the Heaven's Sword Sect, the Absolute Saber Sect, and various other sects stepped out and joined forces to pacify the utter chaos, which was what led to the peace that the future generations had enjoyed for the subsequent eight thousand and more years.

...Compared with the absolute disaster at that time, the current fighting and killing were only a small matter.

Ling Han had a guess. The huge chaos at that time had been incited by the party that those three old men represented. Zi Xue Xian and they were members of the same race; they had wanted to bring her back to the realm of gods but were met with refusal, as she wanted to live or die with this world.

Ling Han had personally witnessed her ultimate end. Though he had not seen the final scene in which she died in battle, without the Thunder Battle Armor, with her heart pierced, and two God-level pursuers behind her, how could she have managed to escape alive?

Zi Xue Xian was a disciple of the Blue Thunder Sect, and in this current era, the Blue Thunder Sect was still standing firm and strong in the middle state. It was said that they were one of the major parties that stood against the chaos all those year ago. In that case, Zi Xue Xian's race probably didn't have anything to do with the Blue Thunder Sect. They had only discovered that there was a member of their race in the Blue Thunder Sect and thus had the intention of bringing her back to the realm of gods.

Jiang Yue Feng and the others, several hundred elites of the Heaven Tier combined together, battled an ultimate elite of the

Shattering Void Tier. According to the time, that person could very possibly be an invader from the realm of gods, or even a god himself. However, because he was suppressed by the power of the realm, he could only possess the battle prowess on the level of the Shattering Void Tier. So ultimately, he was dragged into a battle of resilience by so many elites of the Heaven Tier, then killed through their combined forces?

Theoretically, that was probable.

But the problem here was, why did the realm of gods want to invade this world?

It was public opinion that the realm of gods should be rich in resources, and Divine Herbs would be growing everywhere there. Simply picking any one of them and swallowing it would allow a normal person to immediately become a god. Even if he was not able to become a god, then he should still at least shoot up to the Heaven Tier, or the Shattering Void Tier.

What feature of this world would then attract the covetous eyes of such a rich place?

It was just like how the various parties of the north region were disdainful of the Desolate North—because even if they conquered the latter, what was the point? Only those minor, insignificant parties would think of striving for a niche in the Desolate North.

Could it be that the realm of gods had such parties as well? They could no longer survive in the realm of gods, and so decided to travel to this world?

No, that was not right. Those three old men said that they wanted to bring Zi Xue Xian back, which meant that they had no plans to stay here for a long time. Additionally, Zi Xue Xian mentioned that they wanted to destroy the whole human race. That was not something a conqueror would do.

Without subjects, was a ruler still a ruler?

Most important were Zi Xue Xian's last words. She said that everything the future generation heard were lies. What could that mean?

In terms of her era, she must have been talking about that huge calamity that had happened about 10,000 years ago. It was not true? It was only a lie?

Ling Han could not help but feel a headache coming on. What should have been a very logical story seemed to have been turned completely turned upside down with a few words from Zi Xue Xian. But Zi Xue Xian was so determined to send out these words even if it meant that she would die in battle, so how could she possibly be joking around?

That was definitely impossible!

It appeared that he definitely had to make a trip to the Clear Harmony Palace Hall at the Boundless Mountain and find the answer Zi Xue Xian had buried there. He knew where the Boundless Mountain was—the middle state. Of course, it might no longer be called the Boundless Mountain by now.

Furthermore, after 10,000 years, was the Clear Harmony Palace Hall still standing?

He'd think about it in future.

Ling Han sighed. You obviously had the Memory Crystal on you, so why hadn't you simply recorded all the answers inside instead of forcing him to have to make a side trip to the Boundless Mountain!

"Small Tower, can you repair this battle armor?" he asked.

"No!" Small Tower moved left and right. This was a gesture it made when it was shaking its head. If it was nodding, it would move forwards and backwards. Ling Han was already familiar with its gestures. It paused, then continued, "However, I can disperse the various energies within so that this battle armor could still be used for a while."

Ling Han was delighted, then said, "Then, come over quickly."

Small Tower trembled slightly, and a powerful might gushed forth. The Thunder Battle Armor instantly floated midair and began to shake. Zi, zi, zi . Multiple patterns on it lit up, and then extinguished. However, it was only a short while before this battle armor fell back down onto the ground with a smack.

"It's done," Small Tower said expressionlessly.

Ling Han was not that surprised anymore. It had also erased the tool spirit in the Demon Birth Sword as easily and as quickly like it had done now. Moreover, this was only a Level Ten Spirit Tool that was severely damaged. He put on the Thunder Battle Armor and tried to activate it.

Zi, zi, zi . Multiple patterns lit up, and abruptly, there were uncountable lightning bolts jumping all over his body. It was not just his torso, but his whole body, and they formed a barrier of lightning.

Ling Han gave a wave of his hand, and xiu , a blazing white electric light shot out into the distance and transformed into a sharp blade. He delivered a punch, and the electric light transformed into a blazing white fist that possessed formidable force behind it.

With a sharp whistle, he attacked repeatedly with both hands. Xiu, xiu, xiu . Fist Qi and Sword Qi were shot out simultaneously and, compounded by the Thunder Battle Armor, transformed into blazing white swords of lightning and fists of thunder!

Ling Han could not help but laugh uncontrollably. This Thunder Battle Armor had at least given him a power upgrade of five Battle Stars! Furthermore, this was only in terms of attack. He had yet to try out its defense, but he believed that this barrier of thunder would definitely not be weak.

He was only capable of activating a portion of the patterns on the

Thunder Battle Armor now. In other words, with the advancement of his cultivation level, the might of the Thunder Battle Armor would also advance accordingly. However, it could not possibly reach the level of the Shattering Void Tier anymore, because the two holes in its front and back were still there. That meant there was a portion of patterns missing, and no matter what, it could not possibly display its strongest abilities anymore.

"Zi Xue Xian, we have not had many relations in the past, but the choice you've made has impressed me very much. Don't worry, I will definitely find the answer that you have left behind, and not allow the calamity to happen again!" Ling Han said somberly. After making this oath, he shrugged on his outer garments. The Thunder Battle Armor was a high level Spirit Tool and could actually adapt accordingly to the different physique of its wearer. Thus, while he was obviously taller and broader than Zi Xue Xian, he did not feel it was in any way tight when wearing this battle armor.

There was still that bottle.

Ling Han opened it and looked inside. There was only a drop of purple-colored blood inside, and it was exuding a very powerful aura, instantly making him feel as if his skin was being pared by knives, like his skin was going to crack.

Was this Zi Xue Xian's blood?

Ling Han replaced the lid on the bottle. This might be the key to opening the place in the Clear Harmony Palace Hall where Zi Xue Xian had buried her answer, so he could not use it now.

He exited the Black Tower; there was still some time left until dinner. Furthermore, if they wanted to go to the Duan Residence, they would have to go in the middle of the night, and it was still a little too early now.

He had free time anyways, so he called Liu Yu Tong and the others over and began to teach them martial arts.

First was an enquiry session. He asked them to inform him of the difficulties they had encountered during cultivation, which he would clarify and answer. After that, he taught them different cultivation and martial arts techniques based on their different abilities.

He did not need to teach Liu Yu Tong, however. Zhu Wu Jiu was a swordsman as well, so Ling Han taught him the Four Seasons Sword Technique. Can Ye wielded a saber. Unfortunately, Ling Han had not managed to get any supreme saber technique from the Setting Sun Saber Emperor. However, there was no shortage of saber techniques in his head, so he found a Black Demon Saber Technique which he had Can Ye learn. This was a Black Grade high level martial arts technique, and it was an excellent choice for his current level. It could nearly be considered Earth Grade.

At the moment, Liu Yu Tong was at the eighth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, whereas Zhu Wu Jiu was at the fifth. They had improved very rapidly—this was naturally due to the alchemical pills they had taken. Ling Han warned them repeatedly that they must not be in a rush to break through when they reach the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, but should rather strengthen their foundations firmly before taking the final step of breaking through. Otherwise, the cultivation that had been accumulated with the use of alchemical pills would be too weak, and it would be impossible for them to climb to the highest level of their cultivation.

At night, Guang Yuan finally came downstairs and joined them for dinner. Then, they quietly waited for midnight to arrive.

Chapter 360: A Ghostly Manor?

Only Guang Yuan and Ling Han were to participate in the movement this time round.

They were only going to take a look at things, and not going there looking for a fight. Thus, they did not need too many people with them. Furthermore, only Can Ye could be considered as an acceptable fighter amongst their group; the others were still too inexperienced.

As for Yue Kai Yu, he was still snoring loudly away. After drinking so much, he would definitely not be waking up before tomorrow.

Ling Han and Guang Yuan made use of the darkness of the night to move, and wove through all the main streets and small alleys of the Sea Breeze City. Soon, a massive manor appeared in front of their eyes. Multiple lanterns were hung all around the manor, hinting at the tremendous wealth the manor's owner possessed.

Ling Han leaped up onto the roof, and as he swept his eyes over, surprise filled his expression.

Although it was completely bright all around the manor, inside the manor itself, there was only darkness as not one room was lit. Even if it could be explained by saying that it was already midnight and thus most people would have slept by now... it was still strange for such a huge manor to be completely as dark as ink like this.

Guang Yuan instantly wanted to climb over the walls and enter, yet was restrained by Ling Han.

"There's an alarm array in place," Ling Han said. Even without making use of the Eye of Truth, he could still sense it with his divine sense of the Heaven Tier.

Guang Yuan immediately stopped. He naturally did not have the slightest bit of doubt about Ling Han's words. This young man was

too terrifying. He was only seventeen years old, and not only was he already an Earth Grade alchemist, Ling Han was also his equal in martial arts.

"Can you dismantle it?" he asked quietly.

Ling Han smiled faintly and answered, "It's not too difficult."

This was only an alarm array, and not a massive array like the Mountain Protection Great Array. Furthermore, because Ling Han had entered so many ancient historical sites in the past, this was the type of array that he was most familiar with.

The Black Tower was getting more and more abundant in materials, and only a thought from Ling Han was needed to withdraw them one after another. Soon enough, he had torn a hole into the alarm array and stepped into the manor with Guang Yuan at his side.

"How eerie!" Guang Yuan could not help but fold his arms.

Ling Han nodded. From the outside, he had already sensed that there was something off with how dark the manor was. Now that he had stepped into the manor, there was an additional feeling of eeriness and terror.

The two of them passed through the garden and entered a courtyard on tiptoes.

They observed silently from the corner. In an uncertain situation, it was naturally best to be extremely careful and cautious. However, after only a short while, the both of them looked surprised, and exchanged a look.

...Such a massive manor was actually as silent as a grave, and there was not the slightest bit of sound to be heard.

Even if it was the middle of the night and the residents were all asleep, there should still be the sound of breathing, right?

However, this place was so quiet that there wasn't even the sound

of people breathing. It was as if all the residents of this manor had been massacred and no one was left alive.

They entered the courtyard and began their search. However, as they searched one room after another, their expressions became increasingly dark.

There was no one in any of the rooms.

There was neither any living person nor any corpse.

What was going on here?

"Let's go take a look over there." Ling Han pointed at another courtyard.

Guang Yuan nodded, and the two of them went to search the other courtyard. However, the results were the same. There was no one, alive nor dead.

"Let's separate and search. After one hour, we will meet back at the place we came in," Ling Han said. This manor was very large, and for courtyards alone, there were close to twenty of them here.

"All right!"

After an hour, the two of them appeared back at the point of their entry.

They shook their heads respectively. Neither of them had found anything.

There was not a single person in this whole manor!

How could this be?

"Let's go out first and examine it from the outside," Ling Han said. The two of them exited the Duan Residence and waited for daybreak.

When the cockerel crowed, they saw the manor suddenly come alive. One after another, people came out of their rooms, and life came back to the manor instantly.

Ling Han and Guang Yuan exchanged a look, yet a cold feeling rose up from their very hearts.

This was too abnormal!

"If you look closely, the crowd seem to have all come from that room," Ling Han said. Currently, he and Guang Yuan were seated on the top of a loft. Thanks to their high position, they could see very clearly.

Guang Yuan nodded. "En, I've seen that room before. It should be a very ordinary hall. But it definitely can't contain so many people. Moreover, I've checked it before. At that time, there was definitely no one inside! Not even a damn shadow of a person!"

Ling Han looked curious at this, and said, "Then there must be a secret passage inside. At night, they would enter through this secret passage, and then come out at dawn. No wonder we didn't find anyone yesterday. They should have hidden themselves in an underground secret chamber. But what makes me curious is, why would they have to do that?"

This was the Duan Residence, their own territory. What was the reason for them to leave their comfortable rooms and hide underground instead?

"We'll go back first, then come back tonight for another probe," Ling Han said. This time, even he was starting to feel very curious.

When the two of them returned to the inn, Yue Kai Yun had finally woken up, but he still had a hangover and was currently gripping onto his head. Any slightly loud sound was enough to make him bare his teeth in pain.

"Ha, let's see if you dare to get yourself drunk again." Ling Han laughed deliberately loudly.

Yue Kai Yu hurriedly covered his ears and asked, "I seem to remember you were the one who had purposely encouraged me to drink?"

Ling Han laughed and said, "Go and drink some ginger soup. I'll bring you to a nice place tonight."

Yue Kai Yu instantly looked at Ling Han strangely and said, "I say, you already have two beautiful girls, and you still want to go to indulge in sensual pleasures? It'd be fine for me alone to go to that kind of place."

Ling Han was at a loss at first before he finally realized what he was taking about. He couldn't help but shake his head, then said, "What filthy thoughts!"

"Pei. I'm not as filthy as you. You already have two beautiful girls, and you're still interested in those women outside." Yue Kai Yu expressed his disdain.

After Yue Kai Yu meditated for a while and completely recovered from his hangover, Ling Han introduced Zhu Wu Jiu, Can Ye and Guang Yuan to him.

"Haha, since you all are Junior Brother Han's friends, then you all will be my friends from now on as well," he said very boldly. This was to give face to Ling Han. If it was anyone else, the Young Master of the Yue Clan would not be in such a good temper.

He was at first planning to urge Ling Han to set out, yet Ling Han said he wanted to buy some items at the Sea Breeze City and prepare a bit. Additionally, he also wanted to bring Yue Kai Yu to a nice place tonight. As a result, he could only suppress this urge and went to buy some rations as well. It would at least take them half a year after they had entered the Dark Devil Forest, so he had to ensure that they were sufficiently prepared.

As the only grandson of the Yue Clan, he naturally had a spatial ring of his own.

He was initially a bit proud, but when he saw that even Hu Niu had one when she took out some dried meat to chew on, he was instantly struck with a blow. Furthermore, when he smelt the

delicious aroma of the meat, he could feel his mouth begin to water.

This guy had really thick skin, he actually went to beg for some meat from Hu Niu. And Hu Niu, who usually thought of food as if it was her very life, very generously gave him a piece, which made Yue Kai Yu scarf it down with his eyebrows twitching.

Gods, how could there be something so delicious in this world.

Within a few moments, Yue Kai Yu was completely bought over by Hu Niu.

At night, when Ling Han called over Guang Yuan and Yue Kai Yu and the group set out towards the Duan Residence, he heard Yue Kai Yu deadpan, "Junior Brother Han, so Hu Niu is your cup of tea! Tsk, tsk, tsk. You really have a unique taste, to like this kind of young sprout."

Chapter 361: Going Underground

Ling Han almost stumbled. What did this guy see that caused him to arrive at that conclusion?

"When did you become blind?" he asked in annoyance.

Yue Kai Yu laughed lightly, and said, "If you hadn't conned the little girl, why would Hu Niu keep chattering to me and say that you are Niu's?"

Ling Han was dumbstruck. Hu Niu was a really mischievous child, plus she was clever! She knew that Yue Kai Yu was his cousin, so she switched her strategy to getting on good terms with his family. If they managed to find his mother, then with this little girl's skill, wouldn't she be perfectly capable of charming Yue Hong Chang so much that she would recognize her as her little daughter-in-law?

And after another ten or so years, this little girl would have grown up to become a young girl, and for a genius like Ling Han, it was practically a definite fact that he would break through to the Flower Blossom Tier. Then compared to a lifespan of at least a few hundred years, wouldn't ten years pass in what might seem to be the blink of an eye?

Ling Han could not help but shake his head as he wondered what thoughts were flying around in Hu Niu's little head.

"Since you like the little girl, then just yield the other two beautiful girls to me!" Yue Kai Yu said, slinging an arm around Ling Han's shoulder.

"Ha, ha!" Ling Han laughed dryly, and said, "One of them is my little female attendant, and the other is my alchemist apprentice. Just think, if you marry either one of them, what are you going to address me as?"

"Pei, you are really too devious, just holding onto them and not

doing anything but not letting anyone take over, either. I look down on you!" Yue Kai Yu exclaimed, filled with righteous indignation.

"Speak less nonsense. We've arrived at the Duan Residence." Ling Han lowered his hand. They had arrived in front of the Duan Residence.

"Yi, isn't this Duan Zheng Zhi's house?" Yue Kai Yu looked confused.

"You know him?" Ling Han asked.

"Kind of. He came to pay a visit to the sect before. After all, he is in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and is quite a strong martial artist. Furthermore, the Sea Breeze City is located right below the sect, so we are very closely linked together. Now that an elite of this level has appeared, he would naturally have to report to the sect and make his stand clear so that we can ensure that he would not break the rules of the sect," Yue Kai Yu pointed out.

He paused, then continued, "What are we doing here? You couldn't have possibly fallen for his daughter who's just a few years old, right?"

"F*** you!" Ling Han rolled his eyes. As he dismantled the alarm array, he said, "You'll see later, but I hope you won't yell crazily with your big mouth."

"Who do you think I am, you think that I don't even have that little bit of self-control?" Yue Kai Yu humphed.

Ten minutes later.

"Ghost! Ghost!" Yue Kai Yu looked a little pale. "Is this f***** place really the home of living people? Why isn't there any single living person inside?"

Ling Han and Guang Yuan exchanged a grin. They had deliberately brought Yue Kai Yu around the manor on a tour, resulting in this empty manor and eerie surroundings causing Yue

Kai Yu to feel his hair stand on end.

"Come on!" As they advanced, Ling Han explained the disputes between Guang Yuan and Duan Zheng Zhi for Yue Kai Yu's benefit.

It was only now that Yue Kai Yu understood why they had come here. However, he was curious himself by now. What was going on with this Duan Residence? Why had everyone disappeared in the middle of the night?

They arrived at the hall that they had seen at daytime and began to search carefully throughout it.

However, this secret passage seemed to be extraordinarily well-hidden. They had searched for about an hour, but still had not managed to find it.

Ling Han stopped and activated the Eye of Truth.

'Ow ow ow ow!'

Previously, when he had battled the Seven Sons of Ao Family successively, he had overused the Eye of Truth. Even now, it had not fully recovered. Thus, the moment he activated the Eye of Truth, bloody tears streamed out of his right eye; the sight was very chilling.

He quickly withdrew the Mystical Power. The sweeping glance just now was enough for him to discover the location of the secret passage. It was really easy.

However, the secret passage was easy to find, but it might not be that way to find the mechanism to reveal it. Because they still did not want to alert anyone, they naturally could not cause too much damage and use the most direct and violent method to directly crash in.

Thankfully, the three of them were all in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and had a very sensitive divine sense. After confirming the location of the secret passage, it would be much easier to look for the mechanism to open it. After over another ten minutes, they

found the secret on one of the walls. They moved a painting slightly, and ka, ka, ka , a dark, cold cave opening had appeared on the floor tiles.

"Are we really going in?" Yue Kai Yu asked with a bit of hesitation.

He was not the slightest bit foolish. There were so many places inside the Duan Residence, yet it appeared to be like a ghostly manor. Furthermore, there was a secret passage here, and it was possible that everyone had hidden within. Choosing to stay underground when they had perfectly comfortable rooms to sleep in... there was definitely something strange going on.

Moreover, Duan Zheng Zhi was in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and if he discovered them... would they be killed to ensure that the secret was not leaked out?

"Of course!" Ling Han nodded. His curiosity was completely ignited.

"Aren't you scared that we won't be able to come back out?" Yue Kai Yu asked sullenly, feeling like he really had boarded a ship of thieves.

"It's fine. I'm here," Ling Han said with full confidence. This was not an exaggeration on his part. With the Black Tower for them to hide themselves in, they need not worry about anything that will threaten their lives, at least in a "small place" like this world.

How would Yue Kai Yu know what Ling Han was thinking? However, he was also certain he could not convince Ling Han otherwise, what more when he himself was curious as well, as well as slightly alert—under the eyes of the Winter Moon Sect, what was Duan Zheng Zhi planning to do?

They entered the secret passage and went downwards all the way. It was very dark, and after they had walked for about a hundred metres, the stairs stopped. Instead, a long corridor had

appeared in front of them; there were doors on both sides of the corridor, which likely meant that there were many rooms behind these doors.

Ling Han stuck close to one of the doors and listened for a while. He made a gesture of pushing the door open, and Guang Yuan and Yue Kai Yu nodded, signalling that they were prepared. If there was anyone inside, they would swiftly subdue him.

Ling Han pressed his hands against the doors, used a bit of force, and the doors were opened. The doors were not locked.

"Wu!" The three of them immediately covered their noses. There was a powerful stench wafting out from inside the room.

Xiu, xiu, xiu . However, they still instantly leaped in. When their eyes swept over the inside of the room, shock filled their expressions.

This room was very small, so small that it could only contain a large bed. What was shocking was the fact that it was not a bed that was set inside, but rather a coffin.

"Unlucky! Unlucky!" Yue Kai Yu hurriedly retreated. No wonder there was a powerful stench. This was a tomb and the corpse had all rotted, so of course there would be a strong stench coming from inside.

Guang Yuan was right behind him, whereas Ling Han was the last.

"We don't have to look anymore, right? This should be an underground tomb," Yue Kai Yu said.

Ling Han shook his head, and said, "If this is an underground tomb, then where have all the living people gone to?"

This was indeed something they could not figure out.

"Let's go and take another look." The three of them continued to advance, and a crossroads appeared in front of them, where even

more doors could be seen ahead.

"Let's continue on." Ling Han was determined to get to the bottom of this matter.

They continued to advance, and suddenly, they could smell an overwhelming stench, as if there was a mountain of corpses ahead of them. The smell was strong enough to cause someone to pass out from suffocation.

The three of them wore very ugly expression, and disgust had turned their faces pale.

They held their breaths. With the ability of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, it was definitely not a problem for them to hold their breaths for about an hour.

An underground river appeared in front of them, and there were multiple corpses floating in it!

Chapter 362: Secret of the Duan Clan

In one of the large manors in the city, all the residents were living underground in the middle of the night. Furthermore, this place had a horrendous stench to it, and there was even a river that was filled with floating corpses. No matter how they looked at it, there was something very strange going on here.

Where had these corpses come from?

Understanding flashed suddenly through Ling Han's head, and he exclaimed, "Let's go back!"

He instantly made a move. When he reached a door, he pushed it open and there was yet another coffin inside.

Yue Kai Yu and Guang Yuan came over as well. One of them asked, "What have you found out?"

"This morning, we obviously saw many people come out of the room above us, which means that they were all here. But we can't find even one single person now, so why do you think this is the case?" Ling Han countered with a question.

Guang Yuan's expression instantly changed drastically, and he exclaimed, "It can't be that you suspect that these people have hidden themselves in those coffins? How could that be? With such a horrible stench here, the mere smell would be enough to suffocate anyone to death!"

"For us, this is a terrible stench, but for some, this is a wonderful place for cultivation," Ling Han said calmly.

"How could that be!" Yue Kai Yu exclaimed in shock.

Ling Han did not answer. He simply gripped the lid of the coffin and gave it a firm push.

Zhi . The coffin opened, and a man was revealed within. He was wearing brightly colored clothing, with a lifelike expression on his

face. He did not look like a corpse at all.

"This is someone of the Duan Residence; I saw him at daytime!" Guang Yuan said, his voice trembling slightly. He was in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, so he would not easily forget anyone he had seen before, what more when it was something so "fresh"—he had just seen him this morning.

But he was still alive at day, yet lay in a coffin at night, and a horrible stench was emanating from all over his body. How could he accept this reality?

"How could this be possible!" Yue Kai Yu whispered.

But the person in the coffin seemed to have really become a corpse, and there was absolutely no signs of him waking up at all.

Ling Han shook his head, and said, "As long as it's related to a particular sect, then it would be possible."

"What sect?" Yue Kai Yu asked in shock.

"The Thousand Corpse Sect!" Ling Han answered solemnly.

Yue Kai Yu's expression changed again. He wanted to refute, but did not have the strength to.

Previously, rumors had indeed spread out from the Falling Moon Gorge, saying that the Thousand Corpse Sect had been revived. However, the benevolent see benevolence, and the wise do not believe in rumors. The Winter Moon Sect did not believe one bit that the Thousand Corpse Sect that had disappeared for millenia would once again see the light of day.

But seeing this scene in front of his eyes, Yue Kai Yu had no option but to believe in those rumors.

Aside from the Thousand Corpse Sect, what other party would be accompanied by corpses? How could any normal person bear to live in such surroundings?

"Has this sect really been revived?" he asked, his face pale.

There have been uncountable sects that have perished throughout history, but none of them were as notorious as the Thousand Corpse Sect. Furthermore, its notoriety had lasted for millenia; anyone who still remembered it would recall it with gritted teeth.

That showed how despicable and hated the things that the Thousand Corpse Sect had done all those years ago were. True, everyone would die. But to be dug out after their death and manipulated by another, forced to become a Corpse Soldier under their control—who could tolerate that?

"What do you think?" Ling Han gazed at the man lying within the coffin. He had only briefly looked over the coffin just now, but now, upon closer examination, he could detect that there was Corpse Qi encircling the person lying in the coffin.

In the beginning, how could he have imagined that this would be a branch of the Thousand Corpse Sect?

"We must immediately return and bring this news back to the sect!" Yue Kai Yu said hurriedly. If the Thousand Corpse Sect really had made a comeback, then not only did they need to inform their sect, they would even have to announce it to the whole world, and mobilize the whole world to stand against this party.

Otherwise, if the Thousand Corpse Sect was given time to solidify their base, then most probably, about all the graves of the entire world would have been dug out.

Ling Han looked like he was listening closely to something. Then he shook his head and said, "I'm afraid we won't be able to leave!"

"Ka, ka, ka, that is indeed correct!" A voice suddenly rose up from behind them.

Yue Kai Yu and Guang Yuan turned around at the same time and saw that there was a man who looked to be in his forties standing in the doorway. He was of medium build and had a handsome face.

Though he did not look young anymore, he would still be capable of charming the hearts of a large number of aunties.

"Duan Zheng Zhi!" Guang Yuan's eyes widened.

Duan Zheng Zhi smiled faintly, rubbed his chin, and said, "Guang Yuan, I was just wondering when I should call you over and refine you into my Corpse Soldier. But I never thought that you would actually deliver yourself to my doorstep."

Guang Yuan's cultivation level was too low, so he did not have much knowledge about the Thousand Corpse Sect. But merely hearing the phrase Corpse Soldier was enough to make one's heart shudder, so he knew that it could not be anything good. His heart trembled in his chest, and he exclaimed, "How did Qing Yue die!"

He naturally did not believe that Qing Yue had died from illness now, and could not help but fly into an uncontrollable rage.

"Qing Yue?" Duan Zheng Zhi smiled calmly. "Oh, she objected to my joining our sacred sect, so I could only refine her into my Corpse Soldier so that she would stay by my side eternally."

"You're inhumane!" Guang Yuan shouted in fury, flames of rage practically shooting from his eyes.

Duan Zheng Zhi laughed loudly, and answered, "Of course I'm not human. Now that I have entered into this divine sect, our lives have transcended the level of mortals! In my eyes, you all are merely food, and materials to be refined into Corpse Soldiers! Forget it. I can't be bothered to waste my words on you. Just obediently become my Corpse Soldiers!"

After he was done talking, he actually turned around and left.

"Stop!" Guang Yuan, in his fury, did not care any longer that Duan Zheng Zhi was in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier and was much more powerful than himself. He merely wanted to chase after him. However, he had just reached the doorway when he saw a palm strike shooting towards him. The palm was as thin as withered

bones and completely black, emanating a strong repulsive stench.

Guang Yuan quickly halted and delivered a punch. Martial intent encircled his fist, and he shot out two flashes of Fist Qi.

Peng!

With this exchange of blows, Guang Yuan was instantly flung backwards, but his opponent did not get any advantage, either. He was also forced to retreat multiple steps backward, and it was only when he collided with the wall behind him that he finally stopped.

"What is this damn thing!" Yue Kai Yu immediately exclaimed in shock.

It was a half-rotted corpse that had blocked Guang Yuan, but it was as if there were invisible strings moving it around. It was actually capable of moving nimbly and freely by itself, and it immediately attacked again, charging into the room.

This room was already pitifully small in the first place, and now that another "person" had entered, there was practically almost no space left even for movement and it was extremely cramped.

Guang Yuan attacked in his madness. He was extraordinarily furious, and wanted to kill Duan Zheng Zhi at all costs.

"That would be a Corpse Soldier. It's formed by using some special technique to refine a dead body into something akin to a puppet," Ling Han said. "If it wasn't for the fact that the main ingredient to produce it was a human body, such a creation would really deserve to be called genius."

"You're impressed by it?" Yue Kai Yu sucked his teeth.

"From a certain aspect, yes. However,"—Ling Han's eyes iced over—"this Thousand Corpse Sect must be eliminated."

"I agree with that, but now, it would be difficult for us to even escape!" Yue Kai Yu said.

"Don't worry. I told you that we would be able to leave safely!"

Ling Han smiled calmly. He stretched out his left hand and pressed down on the man in the coffin. Multiple black patterns appeared. This was the Power of Regulation that he had obtained after he had refined the Demonic Qi. In the past, he had merely touched Feng Yan and the latter's whole left leg was gone.

Pu . He struck out with a palm, and instantly, a large hole appeared in the chest of the man lying in the coffin. However, the man's eyes snapped open abruptly. He stared at Ling Han with white eyes, but in the next instant, his head tilted, and he was now completely dead.

Chapter 363: Great Battle Against the Corpse Soldiers

"Duan Zheng Zhi!" Guang Yuan's fury had reached extreme depths. He exchanged a furious series of attacks with that Corpse Soldier, wanting to chase away this rock that was blocking his way, catch up to Duan Zheng Zhi, and make him pay for his evil deeds. Yet, the Corpse Soldier, having no fear of death nor the sensation of pain, did not step back a single inch and continued to battle furiously with him.

"That's odd; Duan Zheng Zhi left just like that?" Yue Kai Yu was surprised. It would be a piece of cake to subdue three people in the Spiritual Ocean Tier like them if Duan Zheng Zhi who was in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier had acted personally.

Ling Han smiled and said, "Duan Zheng Zhi disdained from making his move, most likely because he has full confidence we will not be able to escape."

"You can still smile in this situation when we're heavily surrounded?" Yue Kai Yu forced out through gritted teeth.

"Then what other expression do you want me to have?" Ling Han laughed loudly, and continued to say boldly, "Don't worry. Since I've brought the two of you out, I will bring the two of you back as well!"

"Hopefully not as three corpses!" Yue Kai Yu sighed.

"Not as three corpses, but rather three Corpse Soldiers!" A voice was heard from outside the doorway, yet it was not Duan Zheng Zhi. Instead, the voice belonged to another man.

"There's someone else here?" Yue Kai Yu's expression abruptly changed.

Ling Han rolled his eyes at him, and said, "Aren't you spouting nonsense now? How many people are there in the Duan Clan? If

they were all Corpse Soldiers, then wouldn't their cover be completely blown during daytime? They are the real disciples of the Thousand Corpse Sect, and Corpse Soldiers are merely their tools."

"Yi, a mere boy is actually so familiar with our sect?" A shocked voice could be heard from outside.

Ling Han nodded at Yue Kai Yu and said, "You go and help out Big Brother Guang, and then we'll charge out!"

Yue Kai Yu nodded and immediately took a great leap. He flew over Guang Yuan's head and charged to attack that Corpse Soldier. The exchange of blows between Guang Yuan and that Corpse Soldier had just forced the two of them to retreat successively, and with this added attack from Yue Kai Yu, the Corpse Soldier was forced to retreat even further backwards.

"Yi, why do I have to listen to that brat?" Yue Kai Yu scratched his head in confusion. He had not considered things carefully before he had moved to do as Ling Han had said, but now that he thought about it, he felt a little depressed. He was the senior brother here.

Yet Guang Yuan took his place, and shot out another punch of his own.

How big was the stone chamber? With the onslaught of these three successive attacks, the Corpse Soldier was forced out of the room, and Ling Han and the others took advantage of the opening to rush out. However, when they saw the scene outside, they could not help but grit their teeth.

There were a lot of Corpse Soldiers, but there were also a lot of normal-looking people. Obviously, these people were the disciples of the Thousand Corpse Sect, and they were the people controlling these Corpse Soldiers.

"Yi, that's the Third Elder of the Zhang Clan, Zhang Hu!" Yue Kai

Yu suddenly exclaimed in shock, pointing at one of the Corpse Soldiers, then turning to point at another. "Li Ding Yi of the Li Clan!" He pointed at a third Corpse Soldier. "Gu Shun Tong of the Gu Clan!"

He pointed out one Corpse Soldier after another, and managed to call out the names of at least ten Corpse Soldiers from when they were still alive. He could not help but look aghast, and exclaimed, "You people are really deranged. These people are already dead, and you still dug them out and refined them into your Corpse Soldiers!"

"Tsk, tsk, tsk. What do you mean by deranged? These people are already dead anyways, so wouldn't it be better to exploit them of the last of their usefulness and make them contribute more to this society?" a man who was about fifty years old said. "And the three of you as well, when we act later, we will try to be as gentle as possible and not damage your bodies too seriously. For three people in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, if we're lucky, we may still be able to preserve that kind of ability after we refine them into Corpse Soldiers."

"Maniacs! You're all maniacs!" Yue Kai Yu shouted angrily. He withdrew a pair of knuckles from within his spatial ring and put them on. They were immediately activated and multiple golden patterns lit up. His battle spirit was soaring like flames of war.

"Kill them!" Those people of the Thousand Corpse Sect manipulated their Corpse Soldiers, which surrounded Ling Han and the others.

Limited by their cultivation level and the condition of rearing corpses, disciples of the Thousand Corpse Sect were usually only capable of rearing a single Corpse Soldier, though a few might be able to rear two. The disciples gathered here were obviously of a normal level, and could not possibly possess the Three Lives Corpse Caskets like Rong Huan Xuan. As a result, each of them only reared a single Corpse Soldier.

But there were more than ten people here, so naturally there were more than ten Corpse Soldiers as well. All of them were in the Spiritual Ocean Tier and were First Tier Silver-Armored Corpses. With absolute superiority in numbers, together with how the Corpse Soldiers did not fear death and injury, wouldn't it be extremely easy to deal with three people in the Spiritual Ocean Tier?

Both Yue Kai Yu and Guang Yuan wore serious expressions, especially Guang Yuan. He wanted to seek justice for Nong Qing Yue, so it was even more necessary for him to preserve his own life. Only the weak mourned, whereas the strong would use their fists to make their point.

The Corpse Soldiers had no emotion, and did not know how to speak. With their commands in place, they charged towards Ling Han and the others.

Yue Kai Yu and Guang Yuan immediately moved. Peng, peng, peng, peng, and they were embroiled in a battle with the Corpse Soldiers.

These two had not had any experience battling Corpse Soldiers, and treated them as if they would any other opponent, yet this made their situation dangerous. Because you might deliver a punch to the head of a martial artist and force him to retreat, but the Corpse Soldiers did not care. You could hit them as you liked, and they would still continue in their path of attack to return a punch as well, or direct a slash at your throat.

If a Corpse Soldier was hit, at most, their heads might be bent out of shape or completely detached. That was all right; they could simply attach it back. But if a martial artist was hit with such a strike, would he still be alive?

However, the two of them were experienced in battle, and soon adapted their styles of attack. However, they still could not deal with the Corpse Soldiers, because no matter how much these

things were wounded, it would not affect their battle prowess. So how were they supposed to continue fighting against them?

"You two are really too weak. It's already been so long, and you are still unable to deal with these things?" Ling Han sighed.

"Easier said than done. Why don't you give it a try then?" Yue Kai Yu said in irritation. He and Guang Yuan had to battle seven Corpse Soldiers each, and every single one of them seemed to have indestructible, immortal bodies. It was only because of his shocking battle prowess that he managed to hold on until now. If he only had about nine Battle Stars, then he would have definitely been overwhelmed by now.

Ling Han laughed, and said, "You really want me to act?"

"Of course. Come on, I'm about to die from exhaustion!" Yue Kai Yu urged. He put a considerable amount of trust in Ling Han's battle prowess.

"Let's have a bet then. In the time for ten breaths, I can kill all of these Corpse Soldiers!" Yet Ling Han was not in a rush at all.

"Ha!" Yue Kai Yu naturally did not believe him. Though he also hoped that Ling Han could show off his invincible might and resolve the crisis, but even he only just managed to hold on, yet Ling Han was capable of destroying so many Corpse Soldiers in the time of ten breaths?

That was obviously impossible.

"What do you want if you win?" He was a man of forthright and bold character, and was not one to yield easily either.

"I haven't thought of it yet, so why don't you promise to do one thing for me in the future!" Ling Han said after some thought. "Don't worry. It'll definitely be something within your ability."

"Fine, then hurry up. If you really manage to kill all these Corpse Soldiers, I will even be willing to owe you my life!" Yue Kai Yu called out loudly. The pressure that the seven Corpse Soldiers

exerted on him was getting higher and higher.

Ling Han laughed. His body moved, and he had already charged to attack a Corpse Soldier. He shot out a punch and black-colored demonic patterns wove around his fist.

Peng!

He clashed directly with an attack from the Corpse Soldier, and his whole body flew backwards from the impact, showing that his ability was actually beneath that Corpse Soldier's. But the strange thing was, the arm of that Corpse Soldier began to flake off and dissolve, as if it had become an old skeleton which, with the corrosive power of time, was turned to ashes.

Chapter 364: The Battle Armour Shows Its Might

If it was an intelligent lifeform, it would cut its losses and cut off this arm that was turning into dust to prevent the effects from spreading. However, the Corpse Soldiers, with their lack of fear of death or pain, had become disadvantaged at this point, because they did not feel it at all—or in other words, didn't care about it at all.

It still continued to attack Ling Han, as if it was not the one turning into dust.

Yet Ling Han took advantage of him being flung away by the impact, and continued to charge towards the second Corpse Soldier. Like before, he delivered a punch, and the demonic patterns flashed faintly.

If these Corpse Soldiers were human, then after they had seen how their companion suffered, they would definitely have made adjustments to their strategy, and would not attempt a direct clash with Ling Han again. But how could Corpse Soldiers possess any intelligence? It similarly struck out with a palm strike aimed at Ling Han.

Peng , their attacks collided, and Ling Han was once again thrown back, but the second Corpse Soldier was also beginning to turn into dust.

Three, four, five. Ling Han shot forwards, and in only the time needed to take two breaths, there were already five Corpse Soldiers that were turning into dust, whereas for the first, the effects had spread to its head, chest, and soon enough, only two legs were left still running around. This scene... was a bit spine-chilling.

"Look out! Look out!" The disciples of the Thousand Corpse Sect continued to call from one side, and issue commands for their

Corpse Soldiers. Yet these Corpse Soldiers were simply battling on instinct, so how could they possibly understand what 'look out' meant?

Six, seven, eight... more and more Corpse Soldiers were dissolving, and completely turning to dust.

Within only the time to take seven breaths, fourteen Corpse Soldiers were all hit, and the earliest six had already completely turned into dust.

The disciples of the Thousand Corpse Sect, as well as Yue Kai Yu and Guang Yuan, all wore expressions of extreme shock. With this, they were all dealt with? So simply?

Ling Han smiled calmly. He had not drawn out the Demon Birth Sword yet. If he had, with the destructive power of a Tenth Tier Spirit Tool, it would be capable of delivering an obliterating attack on these Silver-Armored Corpses. If he activated the Thunder Battle Armor, with the natural ability of thunder and lightning to subdue evil, it was also enough to destroy all of these creatures completely.

He had more and more trump cards under his sleeve.

"So how is it?" he asked Yue Kai Yu.

"You're awesome!" Yue Kai Yu gave him a thumbs up. He'd personally fought them before, so he was naturally clear how troublesome these Corpse Soldiers were to deal with. Yet Ling Han dealt each a punch, easily and happily, leaving Yue Kai Yu no choice but to admit his admiration.

"Duan Zheng Zhi!" Guang Yuan roared. His black hair was fluterring in the air, and his rage was about to burn.

"Ai, what a bunch of trash!" Duan Zheng Zhi's faint voice was heard. "I am in a crucial stage of my cultivation, yet I was first disturbed by three rats that had snuck in here, and after mobilizing so many Corpse Soldiers to kill them, you were still unable to deal

with the problem. Tell me, then, what purpose do you have in continuing to live? It would be better if you all became Corpse Soldiers instead!"

Those disciples of the Thousand Corpse Sect shuddered in fear, cold sweat collecting on their foreheads. They all knelt and said, "Please forgive us, My Lord! That brat seems to have got a hold of a unique Spirit Tool, which is very effective against the Corpse Soldiers."

Duan Zheng Zhi appeared again. His eyes swept over the ash that the Corpse Soldiers had turned into, and he frowned slightly. He made a hand gesture, and with a zi , a metal coffin slid towards them as if it had legs on its own. It was incomparably strange.

Peng , the coffin opened. A woman jumped out from within. Her beautiful features could still be seen, but her skeletal face and arms all proclaimed that she was long dead, and this was only yet another Corpse Soldier.

Guang Yuan's expression changed drastically as he called out in a trembling voice. "Qing, Qing Yue!" Then, his eyes reddened, and he roared at Duan Zheng Zhi in fury, "You animal, you actually turned your own wife into this miserable creature!"

"In any case, that's a Spiritual Pedestal Tier material, so wouldn't it be a pity to waste it?" Duan Zheng Zhi said uncaringly, then he said calmly, "Kill all three of them!"

Xiu , Qing Yue immediately charged towards the three of them. This was only a Corpse Soldier. It did not have any feelings nor memories; it only had the instincts to kill.

"Qing Yue! It's me! It's me!" Guang Yuan called out loudly.

Peng!

A palm strike assaulted them, and Ling Han and the others were simultaneously smacked away; they all threw up blood due to the impact. Putting aside Guang Yuan first who did not have much

fighting spirit against his old lover, though Yue Kai Yu was a powerful individual in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, but how could the ability of one in the eighth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier be enough to resist one in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier?

Ling Han was indeed a monster, but his cultivation level of the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier was definitely too low. How could he possibly oppose Nong Qing Yue, whose ability was close to the fourth layer of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier?

Furthermore, Nong Qing Yue was too powerful, and there was absolutely no opportunity for Ling Han's demonic patterns to come into contact with her as he was long smacked away forcefully.

The gap between the two of them was a little too wide!

Ling Han stepped out and said, "The two of you, step back!"

He activated the Thunder Battle Armor, and instantly, blazing white bolts of electricity wove around his body. Nong Qing Yue had at first pounced towards him, but when she sensed the power of thunder, she actually forced herself to a halt and an expression of loathing actually appeared on her face.

Corpse Soldiers could have expressions too?

That was proof enough of how powerful and effective the Thunder Battle Armor was in restraining such evil creatures.

"How could this be possible!?" Duan Zheng Zhi exclaimed in shock. Was this brat specifically born to subdue the Thousand Corpse Sect? How could the Spirit Tools he had all have this kind of effect?

Ling Han laughed loudly. With a wave of his hand, seven images of dragons appeared, all formed from blazing white lightning. These dragons charged towards Nong Qing Yue. Spirit Tools had the ability to compound "Qi". For example, after Ao Xing Lai used the Black Star Sword, his Sword Qi was capable of easily

shattering even Ling Han's Fist Qi. Now, these flashes of Fist Qi had been upgraded by the Thunder Battle Armor, so how powerful would they be then?

...Even if Ling Han was unable to make use of the full might of the Thunder Battle Armor.

Against this punch, Nong Qing Yue did not dare to receive it head on, and she retreated quickly.

A Corpse Soldier that had no fear of death would actually flee on its own? This was definitely a rare sight, and struck the disciples of the Thousand Corpse Sect dumb. They practically did not dare to believe what they were seeing.

"Heng!" Duan Zheng Zhi stepped up, and said, "Hand this brat over to me, and you go and kill those two!"

Nong Qing Yue immediately turned and charged towards Yue Kai Yu and Guang Yuan.

"Don't be in a rush to leave!" Ling Han laughed loudly, and delivered another punch. The Thunder Battle Armor showed its might, and a total of seven dragon images appeared in pursuit of Nong Qing Yue.

"Brat, die!" Duan Zheng Zhi charged towards him.

Ling Han did not pay him any attention, but rather continued to chase after Nong Qing Yue and attack.

"How dare you!" Duan Zheng Zhi was enraged. He, someone in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, used his full ability, and yet this brat in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier actually didn't even care to pay him any attention? How much did this brat look down on him?

Then you must pay the price!

He smirked, and struck forwards with a palm that was aimed directly at Ling Han's back.

"Look out!" both Yue Kai Yu and Guang Yuan exclaimed in shock.

Pa , his palm strike hit its target, but only a flash of lightning was seen. Ling Han stumbled a bit, whereas Duan Zheng Zhi emitted a muffled humph, a stream of blood trickling from the corner of his mouth. His palm was charred black.

This was not because Ling Han had logic-defying power and was capable of wounding even someone in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, but rather the Thunder Battle Armor was showing its might.

"Hahahaha!" Yue Kai Yu rubbed his hands and laughed loudly. "If the Elder of the Ao Clan saw this sight, his nose would definitely be bent out of shape from his extreme anger! But it's really strange. This battle armor has fallen into the hands of our sect for a few hundred years, yet there has never been one capable of activating it. Why, against all expectations, was this brat able to do it? Could it be that this battle armor was waiting for him in the first place?"

Chapter 365: Imitation Demonic Noise

Saber

The Thunder Battle Armor originated from ancient times. The Elder of the Ao Clan wanted to take possession of it to pass it down to his descendants. Even if they were unable to activate the powers of the Spirit Tool, merely the materials used to forge it were qualified to be an indestructible defense to protect the vital areas of the wearer.

As such, he advocated it full-heartedly, determined to make this battle armor into the prize for the entry trials. He had also made some sacrifices for this to be possible. After all, everyone knew very well that this battle armor would definitely fall into the possession of one of the Seven Sons of Ao Family.

But now, fantastic.... He had paid a double penalty with nothing to show for it!

More importantly, Ling Han actually managed to activate the Thunder Battle Armor. That was really too miraculous. It was guaranteed that no one in the Winter Moon Sect would believe such a thing.

Ling Han, with the might of the Thunder Battle Armor supporting him, actually managed to restrain the battle prowess of two powerful opponents in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. This was firstly because the Thunder Battle Armor was indeed an awesome Spirit Tool, and secondly because whether it was the disciples of the Thousand Corpse Sect or their Corpse Soldiers, their natures were inherently evil, and thus could be restrained by the nature of lightning which subdued evil.

That was why such a brilliant conclusion to the battle was possible.

If this was told to others, they would likely die of shock—a brat

who was merely in the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier was actually capable of standing equally against two opponents in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

Yue Kai Yu and Guang Yuan had already entered a dumbstruck condition, and the others of the Thousand Corpse Sect were more or less in the same condition, too, as they were all astounded by Ling Han's logic-defying battle prowess.

"Heng, that's only a Spirit Tool. Do you think I really have no way to deal with you?" Duan Zheng Zhi humphed coldly. With a sweep of his right hand, a long saber appeared in his hand. Obviously, he possessed a spatial ring.

This long saber was a Spirit Tool, and it possessed multiple patterns engraved on its body that quickly lit up. There was a total of thirteen patterns, and they all emanated a dim light; the whole saber seemed to be surrounded by black mist.

He waved the saber in a quick slash. Wu, wu, wu . Ghastly wails could actually be heard coming from the saber, and it was as if the noise was capable of devouring their brains, and could make one feel awful.

"Ah!" Yue Kai Yu and Guang Yuan immediately covered their ears with their hands, but blood still gushed out from their eyes, ears, and mouths. Blood was also seeping out from between their fingers. Apparently, their ears were bleeding as well.

"Demonic Noise Devouring Brain, Killing the Seven Apertures!" Duan Zheng Zhi smirked. The might of this Spirit Tool lay not in its sharpness, but rather in its ability to release a demonic noise, and only those who had cultivated Corpse Qi were immune against it.

Years ago, the Thousand Corpse Sect possessed three priceless treasures—the Three Lives Corpse Caskets, Demonic Noise Saber, and the Pond of the Underworld, and this Spirit Tool was an imitation of the Demonic Noise Saber. It was only a Level Five

Spirit Tool, but it was naturally more than enough to deal with a few people in the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Ling Han was still fine. The Thunder Battle Armor had formed a barrier. This was a Level Ten Spirit Tool, even if it was damaged, the barrier it formed still possessed a shocking defensive ability and managed to block the demonic noise from harming him.

However, this greatly consumed Ling Han's Origin Power—one needed to continuously feed Origin Power into the Thunder Battle Armor to keep it activated. After all, without the presence of a Tool Spirit, one could only use one's own abilities to activate a Spirit Tool.

The best plan to defeat the enemy was naturally to capture their leader. As long as he could subdue Duan Zheng Zhi, the demonic noise would naturally stop. But the problem here was, Duan Zheng Zhi was in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, so how was he to subdue him?

Ling Han immediately leaped over to Yue Kia Yu and Guang Yuan. He moved suddenly, and with two blows, struck both of them unconscious.

How could the two of them ever imagine that Ling Han would suddenly attack them? Thus, they really had not put up any defenses at all. Moreover, Ling Han was indeed powerful, and that why he was able to successfully knock the both of them out with a single strike.

Duan Zheng Zhi was stupefied as well. What did this mean? Could it be that Ling Han was planning to surrender, and these two were his proof of surrender? Even if he was stupefied, the Corpse Soldier would not. Nong Qing Yue immediately charged over with a sharp hiss.

"I am not going to play around with you anymore. Great Spirit Heaven Instant Movement Talisman, let's go!" Ling Han had one hand holding onto Yue Kai Yu and Guang Yuan, whereas his other

hand randomly drew out a piece of paper, smacked it onto his body, and xiu , the three of them instantly disappeared.

He had naturally entered the Black Tower, but how could Duan Zheng Zhi imagine that there existed such a valuable treasure in this world. Furthermore, after hearing that whatever "Great Spirit Heaven Instant Movement Talisman", he assumed that Ling Han had used a Spirit Talisman to teleport away. Instantly, he released a few roars of rage.

"Milord, what do we do?" the others stepped forwards.

Pa, pa, pa, pa . Duan Zheng Zhi gave all of them a harsh slap each, and cursed angrily, "You bunch of trash! You can't even take down three people!"

They could not help but complain internally, isn't it the same damn case for you? However, they only dared to say such words in their heads and did not dare to reveal an inkling of their thoughts on their faces. They all knelt and said, "Please calm your anger, Milord!"

After Duan Zheng Zhi indulged himself in a momentary fit of anger, he commanded, "Retreat. Before daybreak, we must leave the city and abandon this stronghold."

"Milord, but Elder Jiu Yun is going to come for an inspection three days later!" one disciple said.

"Heng, our stronghold here is already exposed. Latest by noon tomorrow, the Winter Moon Sect will definitely send some elite martial artists here." Duan Zheng Zhi waved his hand. "Elder Jiu Yun is only in the Flower Blossom Tier, whereas the Winter Moon Sect has elite warriors in the Spiritual Infant Tier. If Elder Jiu Yun was allowed to fall into the grasp of the Winter Moon Sect... whom amongst you can bear the responsibility?"

"Understood!" They all nodded and immediately dispersed to awaken the others, leaving with their Corpse Soldiers in tow. They

still had to destroy this underground basement.

"Guang Yuan, ah, Guang Yuan. We are really destined arch-enemies. In the past, you fought with me over a woman, and now, you have forced me to abandon this base that I've operated for years! Don't you let me encounter you again, or I will definitely swallow you whole and skin you alive, to be refined into a skinless Corpse Soldier!" Duan Zheng Zhi declared darkly, leaving in a sweep of his robes.

Ling Han naturally saw and heard everything clearly from within the Black Tower. He was not in a rush to leave, either. In any case, the Thousand Corpse Sect was planning to retreat. After they had all left, it would not be too late for him to calmly leave.

Furthermore, even if he immediately rushed back to the Winter Moon Sect at this very moment, he would not have the time to mobilize the elites of the sect to surround and annihilate them.

The Thousand Corpse Sect, ah, the Thousand Corpse Sect, their spirit was really strong. He managed to encounter them everywhere he went.

Anyways, he had free time on his hands now, so he might as well use the time to cultivate for a while.

Ling Han tossed Guang Yuan and Yue Kai Yu over to one side. He did not plan to wake them, planning to wait until after they had left.

He beckoned casually with a hand and an Origin Crystal appeared. With a thought from him, it shattered with a pa , and instantly, a rich, dense Origin Power enveloped him. He stimulated his Spirit Base to absorb it, and within a few moments, he had completely absorbed the Origin Power that had been so dense that it almost seemed solid just a little while ago.

"F**!*" Ling Han was astounded. The last two days, he had not

managed to settle down and cultivate properly, and today was the first time he had used an Origin Crystal, which gave him a shock.

A Single Star Origin Crystal required the continuous input of Origin Power from a martial artist in the Spiritual Ocean Tier for a whole month to be successfully formed. Thus, one could imagine how powerful the Origin Power inside such an Origin Crystal was.

Yet, Ling Han had just simply absorbed it for a few moments, and the Origin Crystal was gone!

Gone!

'This Spiritual Ocean of mine... is a bit too big. Furthermore, there are two of them!' Ling Han sighed. His power far exceeded an ordinary person in the Spiritual Ocean Tier, which also implied that if he wanted to raise his cultivation level, he needed far more Spiritual Qi than the average person.

'To gain, one must first sacrifice. However, if I were able to become invincible amongst those of the same tier, even if that means I have to absorb more Spiritual Qi, that'd be fine. Anyways, Origin Crystals are easy to get.'

Ling Han flipped his hand again, and this time, he drew out a hundred Origin Crystals. Pa, pa, pa . They all shattered at the same time, and instantly, Origin Power gushed forth like an ocean wave, sweeping around him.

Chapter 366: Leaving Sea Breeze City

The biggest benefit of cultivating with the use of Origin Crystals was that there was no time limit.

The process in which a martial artist absorbed Spiritual Qi and transformed it into Origin Power would require him to expend his spirit to stimulate his Spirit Base to absorb the Spiritual Qi. However, if one cultivated with Origin Crystals, one could skip that step and greatly conserve his spirit.

Thus, the cultivation time could at least be extended to twice or thrice the normal time. One could practically cultivate for the whole day then sleep. When one woke up, his spirit would naturally have recovered already, so he could again continue to cultivate.

This was also why the disciples of great sects could improve so fast. They not only had a large amount of Spiritual Medicine to break through the shackles of their cultivation level—they also had endless Origin Crystals to speed up the accumulation of their Origin Power.

In only half an hour, a hundred Origin Crystals were completely used up.

Ling Han hissed. The rate he used Origin Crystals at was already so fierce now, then when he reached the Flower Blossom Tier, and the Deity Transformation Tier, wouldn't his body become an endless pit? So how many Origin Crystals would he need at that time to ensure that the rate of his cultivation would not slow down?

'Thankfully, I have the Black Tower, which has its own herb garden and is capable of speeding up the growth of Spirit Grass. Otherwise, how could I manage to earn so many high grade Origin Crystals?' Single Star Origin Crystals were practically useless for the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and when he reached the Deity

Transformation Tier, he would need at least Five Star Origin Crystals to be able to speed up his cultivation rate.

In his last life, he had not been as monstrous as he was now. As a result, the alchemical pills he concocted added together with some Origin Crystals were enough to support his flight-like cultivation rate. But now... hehe.

He continued to cultivate as one pile of Origin Crystals after another shattered into pieces. He quickly absorbed the Origin Power to increase his cultivation level.

'However, there is no bottleneck to my current cultivation rate. As long as I have an ocean's worth of Origin Crystals, my cultivation level would still be raised extremely quickly.' Ling Han smiled slightly. He estimated that with another ten days, he'd be able to step into the second layer of Spiritual Ocean Tier.

After another few hours, he could hear banging noises, and the whole basement had exploded.

This implied that the members of the Duan Clan had completed all the things they needed to do to retreat.

"It's time to leave." Ling Han flashed out of the Black Tower and immediately could feel pressure—he was buried under debris.

He was already prepared for this. The Thunder Battle Armor showed its might and released the terrifying power of thunder. Pa, pa, pa . The bricks all around him were instantly shattered into pieces as he blasted a hole in the rubble.

He calmly advanced as the Thunder Battle Armor continuously released bolts of lightning. He very easily walked out of the ruins and arrived on ground level.

At this moment, the whole Duan Manor was already a scene of complete disorder. There were huge fires burning, which a considerable number of people outside the manor saw and quickly came to help extinguish the flames.

Ling Han used his movement technique and left quickly. In a remote alley, he summoned Yue Kai Yu and Guang Yuan out of the Black Tower. Then, he released a pillar of water that spewed onto the two of them.

"Eh!?" The two of them jumped up at the same time and moved into a defensive stance. However, they quickly looked confused in the next instant, because their memories were still stuck on that time when they were under the combined attacks of Duan Zheng Zhi and Nong Qing Yue.

"How did we get here?"

"Hiss... My head is a bit painful. Yi, I remember now, you were the one who knocked me out!" Yue Kai Yu stared at Ling Han.

Ling Han quickly shook his head and said dramatically, "Your eyes must have blurred, how could it be possible that I would hit you? That's because I used a Great Various Heaven Instant Movement Talisman to bring us out of the Duan Manor. The two of you could not withstand the powerful pressure of instant movement, so you two passed out."

This bluff made Guang Yuan and Yue Kai Yu stare blankly. Neither of them had ever used any kind of talisman for teleportation, so naturally they did not know what side effects would result from its use. They might be of the mind to doubt Ling Han's words, yet it seemed like they had no basis for their doubt.

"We should go back!" Ling Han said.

Yue Kai Yu said quickly, "We should return to the sect first and report the information about the Thousand Corpse Sect to the upper ranks! Junior Brother Han, we discovered the base that the Thousand Corpse Sect have built here, this is a great achievement. I'll ask our Grand Elder to speak a few words of you and your punishment will definitely be cancelled, so you would not need to venture to the Dark Devil Forest anymore."

Ling Han merely smiled and said, "That's all right. I was planning to go out and travel a bit anyways. You go ahead and return to the sect to make a report, and I will bring them to the Dark Devil Forest for a stroll." He had already found out some information about his mother, and for the moment, it was not possible for him to rescue Yue Hong Chang, so it would be better for him to go and find the two remaining main ingredients for the medicine for Ling Dong Xing.

Thus, even if this trip to the Winter Moon Sect could not be considered completely satisfactory, he had basically achieved his goal.

Yue Kai Yu nodded. The Thousand Corpse Sect had appeared in this Sea Breeze City—that was practically right under the nose of the Winter Moon Sect. This was a huge matter, so it had to be made known to the sect at the very first instant.

After he left, Ling Han and Guang Yuan returned to the inn.

Guang Yuan looked very awful. His goddess from years ago had been refined into a Corpse Soldier, and this filled him with bone-deep hatred for Duan Zheng Zhi.

"If you want vengeance, you must first increase your own power," Ling Han said calmly. "With your current ability, there is no way you would be able to get your vengeance. You would only be delivering food to Duan Zheng Zhi. I am not going to help you. This vengeance is up to you to obtain."

Guang Yuan curled his hands into fists, and a strong fighting spirit could be seen on his face.

"Very good. In terms of cultivation resources, I will satisfy you completely, but whether you are able to step over this threshold into the Spiritual Pedestal Tier—whether you would be able to catch up with Duan Zheng Zhi—will still depend on your own effort," Ling Han said calmly.

Guang Yuan nodded. He did not want to entrust something like obtaining vengeance for the woman he loved to someone else, either.

"Previously, I had indeed knocked the two of you unconscious," Ling Han said abruptly. "I have a Spirit Tool that is similar to a spatial ring, but it is capable of containing living things. Just now, I drew the two of you into it, and that was how we managed to escape from Duan Zheng Zhi."

He kept this from Yue Kai Yu because this guy couldn't keep any secrets after he got drunk—how could he possibly tell him?

Guang Yuan was astonished. A Spirit Tool that could contain living creatures—he had never even heard of something like that. However, because of the limitations of his cultivation level, he did not know how valuable such a treasure was, so he was only shocked for a short while.

"I am now going to draw you into it. You may use the Origin Crystals inside as you like. First, you need to solidify your foundation with the Return Spirit Pill, then break through. Otherwise, in a battle between equals, how could you possibly defeat the combined forces of Duan Zheng Zhi and a Corpse Soldier, what more when he has an uncommon Spirit Tool in his possession," Ling Han continued.

"All right!" Guang Yuan nodded.

"Don't go against it; I'm going to draw you into it now." Ling Han stretched out a hand and laid it on Guang Yuan. With a thought, xiu, Guang Yuan had disappeared from where he was standing. Naturally, he had entered into the Black Tower.

Ling Han took large strides, and soon returned to the inn.

"Ling Han!" Liu Yu Tong and Li Si Chan immediately came to receive him, whereas Hu Niu directly pounced into his arms. At this moment, Yue Kai Yu was no longer here, so the two girls

naturally called Ling Han by his real name.

Ling Han nodded and said, "Let's go. We should leave."

He called over Can Ye and Zhu Wu Jiu, and after briefly explaining, Ling Han drew all of them into the Black Tower and told them to cultivate within, whereas he left the Sea Breeze City. He hired a carriage and headed towards the Extreme Yang City.

The Extreme Yang City could be considered as the center of the north region. It was very prosperous in trade and commerce. The headquarters the Alchemist Society had in the north region was located here—as well as the headquarters that the Spirit Treasures Pavilion had in the north region. It possessed all the most bountiful resources of the whole north region.

It could be said that all valuable items would first appear in the Extreme Yang City, be gathered, then delivered to every corner of the north region.

He should be able to obtain the remaining two main medicinal ingredients that he needed to concoct the Restore Spirit Pill here.

Chapter 367: Duan Zheng Zhi's Pursuit to Kill

The carriage rocked and swayed. The journey to the Extreme Yang City would take close to a month's time, and this was only possible because Ling Han had hired excellent steeds like the "Crimson-Eyed Horned Beast". It was said that this kind of beast could travel 10,000 miles in a single day. If it had been a carriage pulled by ordinary demonic beasts, then even if the journey took three or four months, one shouldn't resent the journey for being too long.

The carriage was pulled very smoothly. He could indeed feel rocking movement from within the carriage, but it was not very strong. Furthermore, Ling Han spent most of his time in the Black Tower, so there was not much significance whether the carriage jolted or not.

Guang Yuan turned his anger into motivation. Added with the fact that he himself had remarkable talent as well as how Ling Han now supplied him with an endless amount of resources for cultivation, it was as if wings had sprouted on his cultivation. He now already had one foot in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier.

Can Ye had also begun to attempt breaking through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier. Liu Yu Tong and Zhu Wu Jiu, meanwhile, had yet to reach the boundary to the next major cultivation tier, and were currently advancing rapidly on the path of the Gushing Spring Tier. In comparison, Li Si Chan's rate of advancement was much slower.

However, the majority of her talent lay in alchemy anyways, which made Ling Han very satisfied. He guided her attentively in alchemy, but as for her cultivation? She could just advance her cultivation level with alchemical pills—so long as it did not delay her advancements in alchemy.

The most shocking one was naturally Hu Niu. After she reached the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, she broke through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier without any stagnation at all. Whatever 'barrier between major cultivation tiers' and whatever 'unstable foundation' were no issue for her at all.

It was as she if was born to be the strongest being so there was no barrier to the next major cultivation tier for her and her foundations were strengthened the moment she took the next step so there was no need for her to go out of her way to do that.

Most importantly, no matter what she ate, she was perfectly capable of transforming the food into her own Origin Power. Thus, she was constantly improving.

Ling Han had sparred with Hu Niu before. Under ordinary conditions, he was actually not the little girl's equal. He had to use a Mystical Power like the Eye of Truth to be able to glimpse the little girl's movements, and even then, they still tied.

The little girl's speed was really incomparably awesome, making Ling Han unable to display his ability even though he was stronger.

A few days later, they had left the jurisdiction of the Winter Moon Sect, advancing towards the Extreme Yang City.

Xilulu , the carriage suddenly halted.

Ling Han just happened to be in the carriage, and he only heard the carriage driver shout, "This is a carriage of the Sun Business, who dares to rob this carriage?"

"Heng, let the person inside come out!" A cold humph was heard.

Ling Han's brow wrinkled into a frown. It was Duan Zheng Zhi!

He opened the carriage door, and indeed, he saw that Duan Zheng Zhi was currently standing about ten metres away from the carriage. The latter wore a large felt hat on his head to block the sunlight. After a member of the Thousand Corpse Sect cultivated

Corpse Qi, though they did not fear sunlight, they disliked it immensely.

This guy actually chased him all the way here?

Ling Han leaped down from the carriage and said, "You all leave first and wait for me ten miles ahead of here. If I am not able to make it there within an hour, then you all no longer need to wait for me."

When the carriage driver heard Ling Han say this, he was naturally pleased that he would get to relax. Usually, they would have the responsibility to protect their employer.

Duan Zheng Zhi did not stop them, either. His target was Ling Han, and as for the two carriage drivers, it did not matter to him whether they lived or died.

"You are really considerate. You obviously know that there are elites of the Winter Moon Sect searching for you, and you still dare to search for me in the city. Moreover, you even successfully found me." Ling Han shook his head, seemingly slightly surprised.

Duan Zheng Zhi smirked coldly and said, "If I do not behead you, what face do I have to face Elder Jiu Yun!"

Ling Han grinned and said, "Are you really that confident that you can take me down?"

"If you had not had the instant movement talisman, how is it possible that you would be able to escape from me?" Duan Zheng Zhi sneered. "I don't believe you would still have more of such a precious item!"

"Then, I'm afraid I'll have to disappoint you," Ling Han said, smiling, and directly flashed into the Black Tower.

Unless he used the one-time instillation of power from the Black Tower, with his current cultivation level of the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, there was no way he would be capable of killing an opponent in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier—mainly because

there was too much of a power gap between them. When the power gap was wide to a certain extent, then it would become a dominating factor. As the saying went, enough power would be able to defeat 10,000 techniques. That was something that could not be compensated by any kind of technique.

Moreover, he still had to leave Duan Zheng Zhi to Guang Yuan. If such a huge feud was not settled by Guang Yuan's own hand, then Guang Yuan would not be able to rest in peace even after his death.

Duan Zheng Zhi was astonished. He had not foreseen that Ling Han would actually still possess another instant movement talisman. One had to understand that this kind of object was really too precious. It was a divine item that could preserve your life; furthermore, it had disappeared since the ancient times. And Ling Han not only had it—he had more than one. This stunned him completely.

'Heng, now that this brat has been contaminated by the Yin Qi in the giant tomb, he will not be able to hide from my nose within this half year's time. I will definitely find him again and kill him!' he declared inwardly.

Ling Han cultivated in the Black Tower for a while, then left in a flash. Hu Niu followed him out as well. The little girl was planning to cling onto him again. Ling Han thus held onto her small hand and walked forwards. Indeed, ten miles ahead, that carriage was waiting for him.

When the two carriage drivers saw Ling Han actually appear with a little girl in tow, they could not help but be extremely astonished.

Who would experience such a thing, encountering an enemy in the middle of their journey, but eventually when he reappeared, he had a delicate, pretty little girl with him?

Ling Han naturally did not pay attention to their confusion, and had no intention to explain, either. He and Hu Niu both boarded the carriage and continued on their journey. However, after only

one day had passed, Duan Zheng Zhi had once again caught up to them and Ling Han used the same trick, which was entering back into the Black Tower.

He had originally thought that it was because of the carriage. As a result, this time, he had the carriage return. He'd just have to hire another. However, after only another day, he was once again stopped by Duan Zheng Zhi.

He shook off Duan Zheng Zhi for the third time, and even changed his appearance again in the Black Tower. He hired a third carriage, but after only a day, Duan Zheng Zhi still found him for the fourth time.

"Haha, so you are even proficient in changing your appearance!" Duan Zheng Zhi sneered.

Ling Han rubbed his chin and said, "In that case, then you should have some kind of unique trick that allows you to detect me from a very far location, and not because you are especially smart and found me through some clues I left behind."

"Heng, you can slowly make your guesses!" Duan Zheng Zhi would naturally not reveal the secret. Who knew how many "instant movement talismans" Ling Han still had on him?

"Then, according to our old rules, I should leave, so you need not see me off!" Ling Han did not continue to say any more unnecessary words and immediately entered the Black Tower.

Duan Zheng Zhi was astonished. How many instant movement talismans did this guy actually have—why did it seem like they were endless? With a leap, he began to once again search for Ling Han as far as the eye could see.

After entering the Black Tower, Ling Han immediately used the power of the Black Tower to scan himself to find out whether someone had planted their martial intent on him or not, which allowed Duan Zheng Zhi to find him successfully.

But the result was that he was very "normal".

He could not help but feel curious. What was going on here then?

'Guang Yuan is about to break through, and by that time, I'll toss Duan Zheng Zhi over for him to deal with.' Ling Han considered the matter for a moment, then came to a decision.

He could not bother to leave the Black Tower, either, and so he began to cultivate endlessly within the Black Tower.

After another three days, he broke through to the second layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and heard two pieces of good news—Guang Yuan had broken through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, whereas Can Ye had broken through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Chapter 368: A Way

All of them were pleased, and even deliberately organized a celebration for it.

Putting aside the breakthrough to the next major cultivation tier, after one had broken through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier, one could possibly need more than a year's time to break through to the next cultivation layer and all these minor breakthroughs were worth celebrating, so breaking through to the next major cultivation tier was naturally a day of big celebration.

Guang Yuan and Can Ye broke through simultaneously, so this was naturally a double celebration. It also increased the pressure on Liu Yu Tong and Zhu Wu Jiu. They were still some distance away from the ninth layer of the Gushing Spring Tier, so they had fallen back a bit too much. Yet Ling Han told them to try slowing down their cultivation rate as much as possible—the smartest thing to do was to strengthen their foundations as much as they could.

Only Li Si Chan was not the slightest bit anxious. She was an alchemist, so it was all right even if her cultivation rate was a bit slower as long as it did not drag down the advancement of her art of alchemy.

In the past, Guang Yuan naturally was the undeniable most powerful one of their group, but after Ling Han had broken through to the Spiritual Ocean Tier, his place as the "top spot" naturally had to be yielded to the latter. After that, even Hu Niu could easily suppress him with her superior speed.

Thankfully, he had now broken through to the Spiritual Tier and regained his top spot, which allowed him to get back a bit of his pride; he was obviously more pleased as a result.

"Duan Zheng Zhi is chasing after us?" When Guang Yuan heard the news from Ling Han, his eyes instantly became furious and his

hands curled tightly into fists. He said, "I want to kill him!"

"You have just broken through. In terms of personal ability, you are not his equal, what more when he still has a Level Five Spirit Tool in his possession. If you seek him now, you would still be going to your death. The only difference is whether you die sooner or later," Ling Han said calmly.

Though these words were not pleasant to hear, they were the truth.

Guang Yuan calmed down and asked, "Young Master Han, what should I do?"

"Firstly, you must place your focus on cultivation. As long as you are able to break through to the Flower Blossom Tier, then what would a Level Five Spirit Tool count as?" Ling Han raised a finger to emphasize his point.

Guang Yuan shook his head and said, "I am well aware of my own talent. I am inferior to Can Ye and Miss Yu Tong. At most, my talent is about the same as Zhu Wu Jiu. It would be difficult for me to cross the boundary between the mortal and immortal plane! Even if I have a supply of alchemical pills from Young Master Han, I would still need a minimum of ten years."

Ten years... even though it seemed like a very long time, in truth, it was an overwhelmingly short time for a martial artist to break through to the Flower Blossom Tier. That was because merely passing through all the cultivation layers from the first layer of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier all the way to the ninth would require who knew how long? What more when he still had to break through the boundary between the mortal and immortal plane—that was the real difficulty here.

Just take a look at the Winter Moon Sect and you'd know. There were numerous people in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier and they had no lack of Sixth Tier cultivation techniques, yet why were there only so few people in the Flower Blossom Tier?

Stepping over this threshold was really too difficult!

Ten years would be enough for him to advance from the first layer of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier to the Flower Blossom Tier—if these words were heard by others, they would definitely laugh themselves to death. How could it possibly be so fast?

However, these few people in the Black Tower all looked as if this was completely natural. With an Earth Grade alchemist to support them and with innumerable Spirit Grass growing in the Black Tower, there would be no shortage of alchemical pills, so how could it not be an easy thing for cultivation to advance, breaking through to the next major cultivation tier?

On the other hand, it was strengthening their foundations that would take more time. After all, they had used alchemical pills to forcibly advance their cultivation.

Zhu Wu Jiu's face twitched, and he said, "Big Brother Guang, if you want to be modest, it's up to you. Why must you strike me a blow in passing as well? I don't think I've offended you, have I?"

The others could not help but laugh. Zhu Wu Jiu's martial arts talent was bad, he could indeed not compare two geniuses like Liu Yu Tong and Can Ye.

Ling Han pondered for a moment, then said, "If you really want to get your vengeance immediately, it's not that I don't have a way for you to do that, but this will require you to pay a very heavy price."

"As long as I can kill Duan Zheng Zhi, I am willing to pay any price!" Guang Yuan immediately declared.

Ling Han looked at the determined expression on his face and said, "I can concoct the Little Three Yang Boiling Blood Pill which will temporarily raise your ability to the ninth layer of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, whereas your battle prowess would be close to one who has half a foot in the Flower Blossom Tier."

Guang Yuan was instantly excited and said, "I should have 99% chance to kill Duan Zheng Zhi!"

Duan Zheng Zhi was only in the third layer of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and even if he had a Level Five Spirit Tool, it was impossible that he could compare to an opponent who had half a foot in the Flower Blossom Tier.

"However, after the effects of the medicine have passed, you will drop down a major cultivation tier, which will not recover with time!" Ling Han said solemnly. "Which means that you will have to start cultivating all over again from the first layer of Spiritual Ocean Tier."

Liu Yu Tong and the others' expressions changed slightly. For a martial artist, what was more terrifying than their cultivation falling back? Furthermore, that was a drop by a major cultivation tier. It would be like one was still a noble god today, yet would drop onto ground level the next day. How many people would be able to withstand such a massive change?

Yet Guang Yuan did not hesitate in the slightest and said, "Please help me, Young Master Han! This life of Guang Yuan will be sold to Young Master Han from now onwards! I will definitely recover my cultivation as soon as possible and serve Young Master Han!"

Falling back of cultivation was indeed scary, but if one looked at it from a different aspect, it did not mean that there was nothing to be gained.

And that was that one would be able to cultivate all over again and improve those parts that he had overlooked, thus strengthening their foundations and make them even sturdier than before. Furthermore, with the experience of having broken through, there would naturally be no bottleneck in his cultivation as long as there was an adequate supply of cultivation resources.

And this happened to be something he needed not worry about.

Ling Han nodded and said, "I will begin concocting the Boiling Blood Pill as soon as possible. You study more fully the Battle Image Fists to ensure that it would be a surefire win."

"Yes!" Guang Yuan nodded.

Ling Han did not immediately concoct the pill—mainly because he was lacking one main ingredient. Thus, he exited the Black Tower and headed towards the nearest settlement.

As he expected, Duan Zheng Zhi caught up with him not too long after. This time, Ling Han did not duck into the Black Tower, but rather used his movement technique to compete with him. Just when the latter was about to catch up with him, Ling Han arrived successfully at the next city.

The remaining dregs of the Thousand Corpse Sect were akin to gutter rats, so how could he possibly dare to expose his identity in public?

As a result, Duan Zheng Zhi only glared fiercely at Ling Han, and it was only after Ling Han's figure disappeared at the city gates that he gave a cold humph and left swiftly. Needless to say, he must have gone somewhere, waiting to ambush Ling Han.

"This perverted corpse man, if it was not for the fact that I have to leave you to Guang Yuan, I would definitely make you experience some suffering!" Ling Han said. He had the Demon Birth Sword, and even if he was not Duan Zheng Zhi's equal, there was no need for him to avoid him like he had all this while. It was only because he wanted to leave Duan Zheng Zhi for Guang Yuan to deal with that he had deliberately pretended weakness.

He had a huge shopping spree in the city. That main ingredient lacking for the concoction of the Boiling Blood Pill could not be considered too rare, but it was still a Level Five Spirit Grass after all, so the price was still extremely shocking. Ling Han had to pay more than 50,000 Origin Crystals for it.

Aside from that, Ling Han had also unrestrainedly bought other Spirit Grass—all the types the Black Tower did not have. For a large number of them, he directly purchased their seeds, intending to bring them back to be planted. With the cheating tool that was the Black Tower in his possession, ordinary Spirit Grass needed only grow for a month or so and would be ripe enough to be used in medicine.

However, after spending so much money, there was not many Origin Crystals he had left. There was even barely enough left for cultivation.

"I have to hurry and get to the Extreme Yang City, then concoct some alchemical pills to earn money. Otherwise, putting aside the purchase of the two main ingredients, even the Origin Crystals I need for cultivation would be gone." Ling Han immediately entered into the Black Tower and began to concoct the Little Three Yang Boiling Blood Pill.

The Boiling Blood Pill was a class of alchemical pills; there were still two other types called the Great Three Yang and Extreme Three Yang. However, the lowest acceptable cultivation level necessary to take these two pills were the Flower Blossom Tier and the Deity Transformation Tier, respectively. They could allow one to increase their battle prowess by close to a whole cultivation tier, but it was not possible for them to exceed the major cultivation tier.

For example, if one in the ninth layer of the Flower Blossom Tier took it, he would only be able to gain ability close to one who had half a foot in the Spiritual Infant Tier, so there was not much difference. However, the side effects were the same, and that was directly slicing off his cultivation by a whole major cultivation tier.

And if Guang Yuan were to take the Great Three Yang Boiling Blood Pill now, there would only be one result: his body would explode and he would die.

It took only about an hour, and Ling Han had concocted four Little Yang Boiling Blood Pills.

Chapter 369: Battling Again

All of them were excited. Though none of them had experienced it first-hand, they had heard from Ling Han that he had been pursued by Duan Zheng Zhi all these days. All of them felt ire at that, and now that the Boiling Blood Pill was successfully concocted, they could finally raise the flag for their counterattack.

Ling Han exited the city and headed south. However, he had only travelled about a hundred miles when Duan Zheng Zhi appeared once again as if he was a tapeworm.

"Brat, let's see where you'll run off to this time!" Duan Zheng Zhi sneered. Previously, Ling Han did not use the "instant movement talisman" but rather chose to take the risk and compete with him in speed to escape into the city; what did that imply?

He no longer had any instant movement talismans left—or he only had one or two left, which he had to save for a time when he needed it to save his life.

"However, I am quite impressed. You obviously have no more means to preserve your life, yet you still dare to leave the city alone!" he continued. He was trying to probe Ling Han's words now; he wanted to know if Ling Han still had any instant movement talismans in his possession.

Ling Han smiled calmly and said, "Who said that I left the city alone?"

"Oh, could it be that you've hired an elite martial artists?" Duan Zheng Zhi was slightly alarmed. There was indeed no such idiot in this world who obviously knew that he was currently being hunted down by an elite in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier yet would still deliberately and boldly leave the city to go to his death.

However, when he expanded his divine sense, he did not detect that there was anyone lying in ambush in their proximity.

In truth, he had followed Ling Han for a long while before he finally appeared in front of him. Firstly, now that they had travelled far enough, it was impossible for Ling Han to escape back into the city, and secondly, he had to confirm that there were no elite martial artist following behind Ling Han to protect him.

How was it possible that he would appear if he was not completely sure?

Ling Han smiled slightly, and raised his right hand slightly. Hu Niu's figure appeared out of nowhere and immediately stretched out her small arms to hug him, looking completely like she was planning to keep clinging to him.

Duan Zheng Zhi's mouth instantly opened in a gape, his eyeballs looking like they were about to pop out of his head.

How could this be possible!?

A living person appeared out of thin air? Could it be that this little girl had appeared by using the instant movement talisman? But did this world have this kind of instant movement talisman that would actually allow one to appear in such an exact location?

Duan Zheng Zhi suddenly had a sense of foreboding. When one encountered something that he could not logically explain, he would definitely experience a feeling of helplessness.

"Niu Niu, thrash him!" Ling Han said with a smile.

"En!" Hu Niu answered decisively. Her tiny figure twisted, and xiu , like a bolt of lightning, instantly appeared behind Duan Zheng Zhi. She raised her tiny fist, aiming a punch on the back of Duan Zheng Zhi's head.

Her speed was really much too fast, so fast that Duan Zheng Zhi did not even have the time to dodge nor parry. All he could do was use Origin Power to protect his head and circulate his martial intent to form a shield.

To clash head-on with an opponent in the Spiritual Pedestal Tier

with the ability of the Spiritual Ocean Tier... the only result would be that Hu Niu's fist would be completely shattered.

But how could Hu Niu be so easily dealt with?

Her tiny fist changed direction inconceivably and pounded right below. Peng , it hit Duan Zheng Zhi's back directly, and this one punch was enough to make Duan Zheng Zhi stumble so that he almost collapsed onto the ground.

Hu Niu succeeded in this first attack and immediately displayed her beastlike style of attack. Peng, peng, peng. Her tiny fists waved repetitively, endlessly assaulting Duan Zheng Zhi's weak points.

Duan Zheng Zhi was astonished and could only expand his Origin Power without caring for the price to protect his entire body. It was as if he had become a porcupine, and there was no longer any area left for Hu Niu to attack. This finally forced Hu Niu to have no choice but to stop. With a xiu , she had leaped back to Ling Han's side and once again clung to him, acting spoiled.

The Hu Niu now looked harmless, like a delicate, pretty little princess. Who would have thought that her attacks just now had been so wild and incisive!

Duan Zheng Zhi suddenly felt a powerful fear, because protecting his whole body with Origin Power like this was a very huge expense on his reserves, and about an hour at most in this condition would leave him powerless. Hu Niu needed only wait until the time when he appeared to be short of Origin Power to attack, and at that time, he would be... The results would be unthinkable!

Thankfully, he still had a secret weapon!

Duan Zheng Zhi drew out his imitation Demonic Noise Saber. This was a Level Five Spirit Tool, and furthermore, it was capable of releasing sound attacks from all directions. Hu Niu's cultivation level of the Spiritual Ocean Tier was a solid weakness. With the

demonic noise penetrating her brain, her only fate would be being slaughtered by him as he desired.

"Heng, you two are indeed a bit strange, but in front of absolute power, your only fate would be death!" he said coldly.

Ling Han laughed loudly and said, "Haven't you seen how pathetic you looked just now!"

"Ugly guy!" Hu Niu exclaimed haughtily.

"How dare you!" Duan Zheng Zhi waved the Demonic Noise Saber, and immediately, sound waves spread out to attack Hu Niu and Ling Han.

"Big Brother Guang, it's time for you to come out!" Ling Han waved his hand, and Guang Yuan's figure appeared instantly. This guy curled his hand into a fist, and hong , four flashes of Fist Qi danced, all transforming into the image of five silver-colored dragons that charged towards the demonic sound waves.

Peng, peng, peng, peng . The five dragon images were shattered in the first instant, but the demonic sound wave was not diminished. It continued on its path and left a considerable number of wounds on Guang Yuan's body before finally disappearing.

It was worthy of being called the imitation of a Level Ten Spirit Tool. It was far stronger than any other ordinary Level Five Spirit Tool.

Duan Zheng Zhi, meanwhile, looked astonished. He said, "You have actually broken through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier? That's not right, how could you possibly appear here all of a sudden?" If one person used an instant movement talisman to appear here, that could still be called a coincidence, but for two? How could such a thing be possible!

Moreover, how could instant movement talismans be wasted like that?

He came to a realization abruptly and exclaimed, "A Spatial Spirit Tool that can store living beings! You brat, you actually have such an extremely valuable treasure on you!" His expression turned heated. This was too shocking, because that was equivalent to having an army of his own wherever he went!

Just think, if he went alone and snuck into a major faction, then released a large number of elites from his Spatial Spirit Tool and suddenly mobilized them into a sneak attack... How shocking would be the results of such a battle?

Especially for the Thousand Corpse Sect. The thing that this party needed the most was a place of concealment where they could secretly develop. If he could obtain such a divine treasure, then who in this world would still be able to find the Thousand Corpse Sect?

"Hahahaha, even the gods are on my side!" He laughed loudly. If he could bring back this kind of divine treasure, then there would no longer be any need to mention his failure of destroying the branch at the Sea Breeze City. He would be rewarded greatly, and it might be even possible that he would be directly promoted to become the vice sect leader.

"Dream on." Ling Han naturally knew what he was thinking. He shook his head and said, "Big Brother Guang, kill him!"

"All right!" Guang Yuan opened his hand and took a crimson red pill, which, of course, was the Boiling Blood Pill.

"Haha, so what if you have broken through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier? You are only in the first layer, whereas I am in the third, and I also have the Demonic Noise Saber in hand! Killing you would be as easy as killing a chicken!" Duan Zheng Zhi said disdainfully.

To prevent any accidents from happening by having the battle drag on, he immediately took the initiative to charge over. He raised the saber in a flying slash and the offensive demonic noise

surged forth, able to penetrate the brain and shatter the heart.

Guang Yuan roared in rage. Hong , a terrifying aura emanated in a wave from his body, and actually formed a hurricane around him. Martial intent was flickering within.

Peng , he shot out another punch, and as before, four flashes of Fist Qi which transformed into five dragon images appeared. Yet these five dragon images were at least ten times bigger than the previous five. Each was about thirty feet tall, and their silver color shone brilliantly.

Chapter 370: Killing Duan Zheng Zhi

Peng, peng, peng, peng. The dragon images crushed them, and the demonic noise disappeared completely.

Previously, the demonic noise easily shattered the dragon images, and even managed to wound Guang Yuan. Yet the situation was turned around now. The dragon images crushed the demonic noise, and majestically rushed towards Duan Zheng Zhi.

Duan Zheng Zhi could not help but pale in shock. How could this be? Guang Yuan's ability actually rose to a point that he could only look up to in a single instant.

This was the seventh or the eighth layer of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier... how could it be so powerful?

The higher one's cultivation level, the more they would feel the gap of one or two minor cultivation layers. Duan Zheng Zhi was only in the third layer of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, and even if he had a Level Five Spirit Tool, the seventh layer of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier would be sufficient to suppress him.

After all, he himself was not some kind of outstanding battle genius, but had depended entirely on his imitation Demonic Noise Saber.

"You can go to hell and ponder over it!" Guang Yuan charged out. He did not have much time, and by the time the effects ended, not only would he have to return to his original cultivation level, he would even have to fall back down to the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

Duan Zheng Zhi somehow managed to parry his attack, yet repeatedly threw up blood from Guang Yuan's attacks. In front of absolute power, his counterattack looked so weak.

"Angzhi!" he suddenly released a strange call, and within a moment, a coffin slid out of the forest, as if it had legs of its own.

Peng , a loud thump was heard, and a Corpse Soldier leaped out of the coffin.

It was Nong Qing Yue.

"Qing Yue!" Guang Yuan could not help but gasp.

"Haha, now that you've seen your old lover, you should be very happy, right?" Duan Zheng Zhi sneered. "Could you bear to kill your old lover?"

Shua, shua, shua . A Corpse Soldier had no concept of emotions, and she immediately launched a fiery attack against Guang Yuan. Her skeletal claws waved in a series of attacks, and there was a black-colored Corpse Qi surging forth. If it came into contact with flesh, especially an open wound, this Corpse Qi would enter the body. It had to be removed from the body at the very first instant—if not, the Corpse Qi would invade the body and he, too, would become a Corpse Soldier.

It was extremely terrifying.

Guang Yuan could not bear to assault the remains of his old lover. He merely continued to dodge endlessly, yet this gave Duan Zheng Zhi enough opportunity to act wildly. Demonic noise gushed forth in a sound wave, and endless streams of blood splattered from Guang Yuan's body.

Ling Han did not say anything. If Guang Yuan could not be decisive and stubbornly chose to do this, that was his matter. He had already created a chance for Guang Yuan to obtain his vengeance, but if the latter was not able to make use of it, then he would not give him any other chance in the future.

"Hahahaha, I know that you managed to have such battle prowess because you took an alchemical pill. The problem is how long would the effects of an alchemical pill last?" Duan Zheng Zhi smirked. He had now returned to the upper hand in this battle.

Guang Yuan did not answer, and only looked dumbly at Nong

Qing Yue. Though this was a Corpse Soldier, she was quite well preserved, and looked as if she was merely asleep.

Chila, chila , the clothing on his body was endlessly torn, and multiple wounds appeared. The black-colored Corpse Qi wove around his wounds, as if venomous snakes trying to enter his body through his wounds.

"Allow the Corpse Qi to invade obediently, and I'll be kind enough to refine you into a Corpse Soldier to allow you and your old lover to be a pair!" Duan Zheng Zhi laughed loudly. The match was set. He was destined to rise within the Thousand Corpse Sect.

"Die!" Guang Yuan suddenly exploded, and shot out a punch that hit Nong Qing Yue's face directly. The terrifying power behind his blow directly shattered the Corpse Soldier into pieces.

How terrifying was the ability of one who had half a foot in the Flower Blossom Tier?

Duan Zheng Zhi looked on dumbstruck. He had never thought that Guang Yuan would suddenly show his might. There was a sliver of his divine sense in the Corpse Soldier and that was how he could control it according to his will. Now that the Corpse Soldier had been destroyed, this sliver of his divine sense was also obliterated, which instantly caused a backlash on him.

"Ah!" he screamed, and spat out a mouthful of blood.

"Guang Yuan, you are too cruel, you actually shattered Qing Yue's remains!" he hurriedly called out. Guang Yuan was even capable of shattering a Corpse Soldier, so how could he possibly be able to oppose Guang Yuan? He could only use words to attack him, and try as much as possible to drag the battle on until the effects of the alchemical pill in Guang Yuan's body disappear.

"You are the one who has defiled Qing Yue's remains, I am only letting her rest in peace!" Guang Yuan's expression was determined, his eyes sharp. He had already thought things over

enough, and would no longer be moved by Duan Zheng Zhi's words.

He waved his fist and attacked. One punch after another, they seemed like they would topple the mountains and turn over the seas.

How could Duan Zheng Zhi dare to receive these attacks head on? He hurriedly turned and ran, wanting to flee. He would immediately bring the information that Ling Han had a Spirit Tool that could contain living creatures back to the sect. Though it would not be as high a credit as him personally getting hold of it, it would still be a great credit.

"Do you think you can flee?" Guang Yuan sneered. Like an arrow, he shot forward and caught up with Duan Zheng Zhi. Peng , he landed a solid punch on Duan Zheng Zhi's back.

"Ah!" Duan Zheng Zhi yelled again. He had already suffered a spiritual backlash in the first place, and now that he was punched, the impact was so powerful that he felt as if his organs were turning around in his body; it was absolute agony for him.

This was still because he had cultivated Corpse Qi, so his body was different from an ordinary person. Otherwise, his torso would definitely be like a water sack that had exploded, with blood gushing endlessly.

Guang Yuan pursued him again and launched a series of fiery attacks without any hesitation. Peng, peng, peng, peng . After a successive series of five punches, Duan Zheng Zhi had literally been punched to death.

"Ah...!!!" he howled to the skies. Though he had gotten his vengeance, he was still left with innumerable regrets. If he had been slightly more forceful all those years ago and directly brought Nong Qing Yue away from this place, would the tragedy of today still happen?

Ling Han walked over to Guang Yuan, drew out a wine sack and handed it over. The thing that the latter needed the most at this moment was possibly to get utterly drunk.

On this night, Guang Yuan indeed drunk himself stupid, and Ling Han drew him into the Black Tower. He continued to advance and hired another carriage at the next town. This time, no one else appeared to block his way, and the carriage, with him within, travelled slowly towards the Extreme Yang City.

Xiu , not long after Ling Han left, a figure appeared beside Duan Zheng Zhi's body.

This was an old man who looked to be in his seventies. His skin was dry, and it was as if it was sticking to his bones, but his eyes were filled with a dignified aura. If a normal person met his eyes, they would most likely shiver in fear from just that one look.

"Dead?" He examined Duan Zheng Zhi's body closely, and murmured, "He was literally beaten to death. Looking at the force of the punches, the attacker should be in the ninth layer of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, or could even be one who has half a foot in the Flower Blossom Tier.

"Could it be that the elites of the Winter Moon Sect discovered traces of Duan Zheng Zhi, pursued him all the way here, and finally battled here?

"I can only choose to refine him into a Corpse Soldier. Taking advantage of the fact that he's just died, perhaps I can draw out some memories from him."

The old man picked up Duan Zheng Zhi's body, and his figure actually rose into mid air.

The Flower Blossom Tier!

This old man was Elder Jiu Yun of the Thousand Corpse Sect. He was at first supposed to go to the Sea Breeze City for an inspection

and to issue a new mission, but had never thought that he would receive the news that the secret of the branch had been discovered by the Winter Moon Sect and could only retreat before he even arrived.

He had yet to meet Duan Zheng Zhi, but was informed that the latter was currently in pursuit of the person who had exposed them. In the end, when he chased him all the way here, the only thing he saw was Duan Zheng Zhi's body.

In a mere five days, Duan Zheng Zhi's corpse was refined into a Corpse Soldier.

...If he had known this when he was still alive, who knew if he would regret joining this sect. They were really deranged.

"Yi?" Elder Jiu Yun continued to draw out Duan Zheng Zhi's memories. Though there were only a few shattered pieces, but his final battle was preserved quite fully.

"A Spatial Spirit Tool that can store living creatures?"

"Hahahaha, the gods are on the side of our Thousand Corpse Sect, we will prosper! We definitely will!"

A dark expression appeared on his face, and he immediately rose up into the skies. He wanted to find Ling Han and snatch that extremely valuable Spirit Tool.

Chapter 371: Open Shop

After dealing with Duan Zheng Zhi, Ling Han naturally needed not change his appearance anymore. Accompanied by the carriage's swaying, he travelled all the way to his destination. When he reached the Extreme Yang City, his cultivation had reached the middle period of the third layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, but the bad news was that he had used up all his Origin Crystals, so the current him was really poor.

Guang Yuan's cultivation had also fallen back to the first layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, and after this time period of over a month spent on cultivation, he had just broken through to the second layer, which was not that much different from Can Ye. Even if these two endlessly refined Origin Crystals without rest or sleep, they would only be able to supply two Origin Crystals in a single month, and they would only be Single Star Origin Crystals.

How pitiful!

Ling Han sighed. When he entered into the Extreme Yang City, he handed over the last Origin Crystal on him as the registration fee for his entry into the city. The registration needed only be done once, and in future, he would not need to pay any additional fees for any subsequent entries.

To save money, he didn't even let Liu Yu Tong and the others out.

Now, the first step was not to find the remaining two main ingredients for the Restore Spirit Pill, but rather to earn money first. Without money, could it be he was planning to steal? Even if he wanted to, he had to have the ability to do so first.

The Extreme Yang City was the commercial center of the whole north region. This was an extremely lively place, and there were two colossal powers here: the Alchemist Society and the Spirit Treasures Pavilion. The headquarters of the Spirit Treasure

Pavilion was still called the Spirit Treasure Pavilion, but the place where the Alchemist Society was located was called the "Northern Pill Palace Hall". It occupied close to one-tenth of the total area of the whole city. There were numerous martial artists and alchemists residing within. There was also a gigantic medicine farm that provided the ingredients for the daily concoction of the alchemists.

It was said that this medicine farm had an extremely large Gathering Spirit Array over it, which allowed the Spiritual Qi within to be extremely dense and sped up the growth of the Spirit Grasses. To sustain the circulation of this Gathering Spirit Array, the amount of Origin Crystals consumed daily was astronomical. It was likely that even the Winter Moon Sect would shiver at seeing this sky-high figure.

In terms of wealth, there were two great parties who were at the top of the hierarchy in the north region: the Alchemist Society and the Spirit Treasures Pavilion. Only these two great parties could burn Origin Crystals like that.

When Ling Han heard that, he could not help but feel his hands itch. He wanted very much to enter this medicine field of the Northern Pill Palace Hall and pull out a few stalks of every type of Spirit Grass to be transplanted into the Black Tower to perfect his medicine field. Only in the Black Tower could it be called a real medicine field!

His thoughts wandered too far away. Priority now was to earn money, earn money!

Ling Han planned to open up a shop to sell alchemical pills, along with a restaurant, to endlessly gather Origin Crystals for him.

...Auctioning off a high grade alchemical pill would indeed get a high price, but the problem was, the rarer something was, the greater its value. If he drew out too many, their price would naturally drop. Furthermore, the amount of Origin Crystals Ling

Han needed was an astronomical figure. No matter how many, he wouldn't complain about having too many.

Thus, he not only needed to occasionally produce some high grade alchemical pills to earn Origin Crystals like crazy, he also had to ensure a steady stream of lower grade alchemical pills to continuously earn Origin Crystals for him.

Everything was difficult at the start and lack of money could encumber even the greatest of heroes. Ling Han did not have even one Origin Crystal, so he could only start all over again.

He first harvested some ginseng from inside the Black Tower, and went to a pharmacy to sell them. But the result was that this pharmacy offered an extremely low price for them. He was so furious that he went to another pharmacy, yet the result was the same.

When they saw that he was an outsider and that his cultivation level was only in Spiritual Ocean Tier, they naturally wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to make a killing.

In the Desolate North, the Spiritual Ocean Tier could be considered to be one of the middle ranks of power, but in the Extreme Yang City, only the Spiritual Pedestal Tier could be addressed as elite, whereas those in the Flower Blossom Tier would be able to get real respect.

There was nothing to be done. Who asked the Extreme Yang City to be the commercial center of the whole north region? There were many elite martial artists of the Flower Blossom Tier, and if one simply looked at this city, they may even think that the Flower Blossom Tier was too easy to break through to.

After switching a few pharmacies, the result was more or less the same. Ling Han could only bear the pain and sell the ginseng at a rock-bottom price. One had to understand that these ginsengs have been growing for close to two months, and their age was close to reaching three hundred years.

"You all will regret this!" Ling Han noted this down. In future, he would definitely open a branch beside every pharmacy, and snatch away all their business!

...Ling Han sometimes was also very childish.

With starting capital, Ling Han immediately opened his pharmacy and a restaurant. It was very easy to do so as he simply bought readily available ones that did not even need to be renovated. As a result, two days later, his pharmacy and restaurant were open and ready for business.

Liu Yu Tong was placed in charge of the restaurant, whereas Li Si Chan was responsible for the pharmacy.

The restaurant was called "Forget Not", which meant that if a person ate once, he would not forget the taste and would come again and again. Meanwhile, the pharmacy was called "Alchemist King Pavilion"—with Ling Han's skill, this was definitely not an exaggeration, but rather that he did have the ability to deserve this name.

Since he wanted to earn money, he naturally had to make his brand known. However, even though they had opened for two days, neither of the two shops were doing too well in business.

In the restaurant, Ling Han had drawn out some of the vegetables, fruits, and dried meat from within the Black Tower. Anyways, there was a lot available, but these ingredients were only used in some high-end food, and the bill had to be settled in Origin Crystals for them.

But for a shop that had newly opened, only some ordinary people would be coming for the novelty. The foods that these people chose were the most ordinary ones, and their bills were settled with gold and silver. These people could not afford the higher-end food, so how could it be possible that he could earn Origin Crystals?

The pharmacy was in the same situation. Though the name of "Alchemist King Pavilion" sounded very grand, it was also the stuff of jokes for the majority. Moreover, no one would dare to take alchemical pills randomly—before there was a very good reputation for the establishment, who would come to purchase alchemical pills? It was not possible even if the price was cheaper than average.

Furthermore, Ling Han did not want to snatch a niche in the market by waging a price competition; how could the alchemical pills concocted by the Alchemist Emperor be sold for a low price?

Could it be that he could only choose to reveal his status as an Earth Grade alchemist?

Ling Han shook his head. The claws of the Thousand Corpse Sect had already extended to the Desolate North and the Winter Moon Sect, so there was no guarantee that there were no spies or a branch of the Thousand Corpse Sect here. Ling Han ruined the plan that the Thousand Corpse Sect had put into place for many years at the Falling Moon Gorge—if he revealed his status, it would be very easy for them to find him.

If he revealed his status and if the Thousand Corpse Sect had spies here, they would definitely come and make trouble for him. Killing him should be impossible, but they could disturb his business, and this was also something that he did not want to see happen.

He changed his strategy, and had the restaurant bring out delicacies that were only available for a short period of time, and these foods were all made from the vegetables grown inside the Black Tower. They were free to sample.

After only two days, the business of the restaurant suddenly exploded to shocking levels.

As word of mouth spread, more and more people came, and there was no lack of extremely powerful martial artists among them.

Furthermore, as long as they had tasted that precious food, it was naturally impossible for them to forget about it. Thus, they would willingly draw out great amounts of Origin Crystals to spend on the food.

These delicacies were very expensive. One vegetable dish would require one Origin Crystal, and the meat dishes were even more expensive as they required ten Origin Crystals. And Ling Han had yet to bring out the demonic beast meat that he was rearing inside the Black Tower, and the price for dishes made from this could be increased by another tenfold.

However, demonic beasts were very rare, so Ling Han planned to leave their meat only for his own people, and had no plans to bring it out to be sold.

Now that the business of the restaurant had improved, Ling Han guided this stream of customers to the pharmacy. In this way, the business of the pharmacy improved as well. Furthermore, the alchemical pills in the pharmacy were largely concocted by Li Si Chan, but those alchemical pills with the highest value originated from Ling Han's hand. Once they used these pills, everyone praised their effectiveness.

In just over ten days, the two establishments had begun continuously earning Origin Crystals for Ling Han—the amount was extremely impressive. However, astronomical wealth always attracted covetous eyes. Ling Han had no backer and had just come to this city yet earned so much money, how could it be that he would not attract the envy of others?

A young man came to the restaurant, and demanded half their profits.

Chapter 372: An Exorbitant Demand

"Call your boss out," the young man commanded in a very haughty tone. There were two attendants behind him, and both in the Spiritual Ocean Tier.

In the Extreme Yang City, though the Spiritual Ocean Tier could not be considered as top-tier elites, they were not such commonplace thugs that a wave of a hand could gather a whole bunch of them, either. Thus, this young man should have quite a high social status, and was definitely no ordinary commoner.

The waiter hurriedly went to ask for the manager. The manager stepped out to talk with the young man, but was also waved off by the latter. He insisted that they find someone who could really make decisions in this place to talk to him.

As a result, Liu Yu Tong appeared to meet him.

When the young man saw Liu Yu Tong, his eyes lit up unconsciously. There were indeed many beautiful women in this world, but there were not many that were beautiful to the extent Liu Yu Tong was. Furthermore, such an extraordinary beauty was even in the higher ranks of the Gushing Spring Tier—she was rare goods.

"I go by the surname Lang, and my name is Jun Cai." The young man withdrew his arrogant attitude and put on a refined and courteous manner.

"What guidance would Mr Lang like to offer?" Liu Yu Tong asked tonelessly.

Lang Jun Cai smiled slightly and asked, "How may I address you, Miss?"

This person had extremely thick skin, and was not someone that could be easily dealt with.

Liu Yu Tong thought for a moment, then replied, "Liu."

Lang Jun Cai was rebuffed neither gently nor roughly, yet did not get angry. He offered an open-mouthed smile. With teeth as white as snow, together with a handsome face, he looked very dashing. He said, "Miss Liu, I would like to make a business deal with you."

"What kind of business deal?"

"I would like to have 50% of the profits of 'Forget Not'," Lang Jun Cai made an exorbitant demand.

Liu Yu Tong laughed in spite of herself and asked, "Is Mr Lang joking?"

Lang Jun Cai shook his head and smiled gracefully. "Don't think that I am greedy. In truth, I originally wanted to ask for 70% of the profits, but for the sake of Miss Liu, I decided to cut down to 50%." He immediately folded his arms over his chest and continued, "Please listen to what I can do for you first, Miss Liu.

"The Extreme Yang City is a huge cake that contains an astonishing amount of profits in it. However, this cake has already long been divided and distributed, and with Miss Liu's forceful interference and getting a slice of your own now, this will make a considerable number of people displeased.

"Among these people, there are some that possess incredible power. Even with just a flick of a finger, they could make this restaurant suddenly collapse tomorrow.

"So, Miss Liu needs me.

"At the very least, I have some face in this Extreme Yang City. Thus, once you hang up the sign of the Lang Clan, I believe that there would be no one in the Extreme Yang City who would dare touch a chair or table here!

"Half the profits versus losing everything; for such a simple choice, Miss Liu should be clear on what to do, right?"

When he was finished speaking, Lang Jun Cai looked smilingly at

Liu Yu Tong. Today, he only asked for 50% of the profits, but tomorrow, he would make this beauty into a captive beneath him, and by then, naturally, all the profits would belong to him.

Liu Yu Tong's expression changed slightly. She came from a great clan, so she naturally knew that with the prosperous business Forget Not was making now, it would definitely attract covetous eyes. However, she had never thought that his day would come so fast.

Since Ling Han had handed the restaurant for her to manage, unless it was a last resort, she did not want to disturb Ling Han. As a result, she asked, "Mr Lang, could it be that laws do not exist in the Extreme Yang City?"

"They do. However, the law would only protect a limited number of people, such as my Lang Clan. For now, at least, Miss Liu is not under the protection of the law. Only when you enter the camp of my Lang Clan will you get similar protection," Lang Jun Cai said with a smile, admiring Liu Yu Tong's delicate features. He was definitely going to get hold of this beauty.

Liu Yu Tong suppressed the anger she was feeling, and stated calmly, "I'm afraid Mr Lang is being too overconfident."

"Oh, you don't believe me?" Lang Jun Cai asked, smiling. He did not think that a few words would be able to conquer Liu Yu Tong. "You can make your own investigation and find out what my Lang Clan represents in this Extreme Yang City. Additionally, from tomorrow onwards, it would be best for the restaurant to close temporarily. Whenever you agree to my conditions, you can come find me at Listen to the Rain Pavilion. I am there most of the time."

He stood and said, "I'll beg my leave then."

"I won't bother to see you out!" Liu Yu Tong said coolly.

The moment Lang Jun Cai left, Liu Yu Tong immediately went to make enquiries about the Lang Clan. The result made her frown.

The Lang Clan was a party at the level of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier. Though it was not one of the top clans in the Extreme Yang City, they possessed their own space in the society. More importantly, the Lang Clan was a vassal clan of an Earth Grade alchemist in the North Pill Pavilion 1, and that was the real source of confidence for Lang Jun Cai to make such a ridiculous demand.

Could it be that Ling Han had to use the name of an Earth Grade alchemist to suppress Lang Jun Cai?

That would really be like using an ox cleaver to kill a chicken—that would really lower his status.

But who asked Ling Han to currently have too few people he could actually use effectively by his side? At first, Guang Yuan had already broken through to the Spiritual Pedestal Tier, but his cultivation level had fallen dramatically now. If one was considering the strongest in their group, that would actually be Ling Han, an Earth Grade alchemist, and the next strongest was a little girl of five or six, Hu Niu.

Liu Yu Tong sighed. The main thing was that Ling Han's alchemy had improved too quickly, and the power of those by his side could not catch up at all. Otherwise, an Earth Grade alchemist would at least have a large number of Spiritual Pedestal Tier elites following by his side, and it would not be strange for even a few Flower Blossom Tier elites to appear at his side.

She pondered the issue for a while, but still decided to inform Ling Han of this matter, because she was not able to settle this issue at all.

"Oh, a fly?" Ling Han's mouth twitched. He said, "It's all right. I will go and sit at the restaurant personally tomorrow. I'd like to see how arrogant he can be."

Liu Yu Tong nodded. At worst, Ling Han could just reveal his identity as an Earth Grade alchemist, and at that time, there would be no worries that Lang Jun Cai would not kneel in front of Ling

Han and beg for his forgiveness with fear and trepidation.

The night passed. Early the next morning, Ling Han brought with him Guang Yuan, Can Ye, and Zhu Wu Jiu to the restaurant. As for Hu Niu, there was of course no way he could leave her behind.

At the beginning, everything was normal. However, when it was about noon and time for lunch, a few groups of black-clad people came to the restaurant. They did not order any dishes, but simply sat down at various tables.

These black-clad people were not ordinary customers. Most of them were in the Gushing Spring Tier, and there were a small number in the Spiritual Ocean Tier. It would not attract anyone's attention if there was only one or two of them, but with such numbers, the moment ordinary customers entered, they would turn around and leave.

These people's auras were too overbearing. Even the waiters did not dare step up to urge them to make their orders or leave. All the way until noon, there was not even a bit of business in the restaurant left.

"These people must have been sent by Lang Jun Cai to make trouble!" Liu Yu Tong said furiously.

Ling Han smiled and said, "Firstly, they are here to ruin our business, and secondly, they are here to show off their might. To be able to mobilize so many Spiritual Ocean Tier and Gushing Spring Tier elites, hoho, this Lang Jun Cai is indeed a scheming character."

"What do we do? Do we have Hu Niu go and chase them off?" Liu Yu Tong asked.

Hu Niu instantly grinned. Violence was her favorite activity, but Ling Han usually did not allow her to get into fights.

Ling Han smiled and said, "Diplomacy before violence. We are

doing business here, so we should be amiable, which would attract riches." As he spoke, he descended down the stairs from the second floor.

Liu Yu Tong could not help but roll her eyes. Being amiable to attract riches? From the killing intent all over Ling Han's face, he looked more like he was about to go on a killing spree.

Chapter 373: Total Knock Out

Ling Han walked downstairs slowly. As his eyes swept over the whole area of black-clad people, he smiled and said, "It is now time for lunch. Everyone, you all can either begin to make your orders, or leave and get lost. Don't affect my business."

"F***, can't I study the menu for a while longer and think about what I want to eat?" one of them immediately shouted, slamming a hand onto the table.

"That's right. What kind of damn restaurant is this that won't even allow its customers to look at the menu, and force them to order? Is this what it means when they saw a big shop will bully its customers?" someone sneered.

"We are not people who can easily be trifled with, so I'd really like to see how they want to bully us!"

"Waiter, come here and tell us what's on the menu. You've got to be clear, and don't stutter."

A waiter came forward, trembling. He was only a waiter and received a small salary, so he really did not want to get involved. But having a Gushing Spring Tier elite pointing at his nose, how could he, an ordinary man, dare not go over?

He began to recite the dishes on the menu.

"Louder, did you f***** not eat?" that black-clad man immediately yelled.

The waiter could only raise his volume, and began to recite the menu in a louder voice.

"*****, how dare you actually spit in my face!" The black-clad man glared fiercely, and pa, delivered a harsh slap directly to the waiter's face. The force of the blow caused the waiter to spit out three of his teeth.

The waiter was slapped dizzy. Three other waiters hurriedly took a few steps forward and supported him. They all looked at that black-clad man with angry expressions, but did not dare to voice out their resentment.

How could he bully them like that!

"What is it, you still dare to glare at me?" The black-clad man glared back at them, his ferocious nature on full display.

"Hehehe." The other black-clad people broke out into laughter. In their eyes, this was only a farce.

Ling Han strode over, a carefree smile still on his face, and arrived in front of that black-clad man.

"You're the manager? Then you come and recite the menu to me!" The black-clad man turned his fierce eyes onto Ling Han. The command they had received was to threaten the people of this restaurant as much as possible.

"Recite your sister!" Ling Han moved and grabbed his head, which he then slammed onto the table. With a bang, the pearwood table was instantly broken into pieces. That black-clad man fell down onto the ground, groaning as he held his head in pain.

Even if he was in the Gushing Spring Tier, it was not pleasant when Ling Han slammed his head onto the table like that. It felt as if his head was exploding in agony.

Shua, at least 90% of the black-clad people stood, and the only people seated were seven black-clad people who were in the Spiritual Ocean Tier. They were still calmly and coolly seated, as if nothing had happened at all.

"You f***** actually dare to commit a crime!" Those black-clad people all glared fiercely at Ling Han.

"This is considered a crime? Hey, hey, hey. You all really have too little experience." Ling Han shook his head. Pa, with a stomp of his foot, the head of the black-clad man who was still lying on the

ground was stepped into the floorboards. He maintained a kneeling stance, his backside raised high, as if he was waiting for someone to pamper him.

Qiang, qiang, qiang. Those black-clad people all drew out their respective weapons, all of them wearing expressions of rage.

Hu Niu immediately bared her teeth at the people around them. The little girl was the really violent one; her large eyes were filled with killing intent. In her mind, there was completely no laws, no logic, and no rules.

Whoever treated her and Ling Han well she would only consider as non-enemy, but whoever treated them badly was her enemy! A wild beast's attitude towards enemy... would be to slaughter them!

"Subdue him, take off all his clothes and hang him at the door to allow everyone to admire the view," a black-clad man called out.

"This idea's not too bad!"

"But we have to give him a thrashing first for daring to hurt one of us."

"Let's go!"

Immediately, eight people came forward, brandishing their weapons to attack. When Hu Niu saw this, she instantly leaped down from Ling Han and attacked. Peng, peng, peng, peng. The weapons flashed, and those eight people were instantly all knocked over, lying on the ground and moaning in pain.

This naturally was because Hu Niu had been merciful—Ling Han had shook his head at her, not allowing her to kill anyone. Though the little girl was very unhappy at this, she would still not defy Ling Han's order.

"Yi!"

"En!"

"Ah!"

When they saw that Hu Niu was actually so powerful, the seven people in the Spiritual Ocean Tier could no longer sit by calmly, and they all stood up as well.

This was just a newly opened restaurant and the owner was a newcomer. He had just come to the city, so what kind of background, or power, could he possibly have? As a result, now that the seven of them in the Spiritual Ocean Tier moved, it should be a cinch for them, but they could not see through the oddness of Hu Niu.

"I'll go!" One of the black-clad men at the Spiritual Ocean Tier acted, stretching out a hand to grab Hu Niu.

"Invincible Little Tiger Fists!" Hu Niu somersaulted in midair, and with speed as fast as if she was a flash of light, arrived behind that black-clad man. She punched with her tiny fist, and peng, the force of the blow instantly caused the man to stumble and spit out a mouthful of blood.

Ling Han could not help but smile. Did Hu Niu now had an additional attribute of making others laugh?

"Let's all attack!" The remaining six people in the Spiritual Ocean Tier were greatly shocked and hurriedly advanced all at once.

Ganging up on someone... anyone with a little bit of status or pride would definitely feel that it was beneath their dignity to do something like that, what more when the opponent was only a little girl. However, these six people were mere servants, so how could they possibly have the bearing of elite martial artists?

If one was not enough... then of course all of them should attack at once; as for whatever pride, could it fill their stomachs?

Hu Niu was calm and unafraid. Her tiny figure dashed left and right, and here and there. Even Ling Han could not capture her movements at that kind of speed if he did not activate the Eye of Truth, what more for these six people? Within a few moments, all

six of them had been completely knocked over.

"Yay!" Hu Niu skipped around happily, 'I'm so awesome' written all over her face.

The other black-clothed people all hissed. Oh no, they were finished—they'd kicked an iron plate!1

Before this, they had all thought that this restaurant was opened by a little martial artist in the Gushing Spring Tier. At most, there would be one or two Spiritual Ocean Tier elites on standby here; seven of them came in one go, so they should have been sufficient to quash any opposition.

Indeed, only two people in the Spiritual Ocean Tier came from the other side, but they were all too f***** powerful, weren't they? They managed to thrash seven great elites like them as if they were mere stray dogs, what the f***.

"Flee quickly, report to Young Master Lang!" Someone immediately thought of fleeing immediately, yet saw that Ling Han was currently looking at them smilingly.

"I told you all to leave just now, but you refused. Now, it's too late for you to leave!" Ling Han moved and slapped them unconscious one by one. Soon enough, all of them lay on the ground, unmoving.

Those waiters all watched on, dumbstruck, thinking, 'So the boss was actually so mighty. As long as news of this battle spread, no one would dare come to make trouble again in future.' But they were still a bit worried. The Extreme Yang City was a place filled with crouching tigers and hidden dragons. Even Spiritual Ocean Tier martial artists could only be considered minor characters here.

"Young Master Han, what do we do with them?" Zhu Wu Jiu asked.

"Tie them all up and hang them at the door," Ling Han answered

calmly.

"Doing that would affect our business," Zhu Wu Jiu said with a bit of hesitation. Ordinary people would definitely want to avoid trouble, and when they saw that kind of scene, who would dare to still enter?

"It's fine. Just let them see our power," Ling Han said. As an Earth Grade alchemist, did he need to be afraid of them? He smiled slightly at that waiter who had been slapped and said, "You go and collect ten silver coins from the counter. Your salary is doubled from now on."

"Thank you, Sir!" The waiter was instantly elated. If three of his teeth could get so many benefits in exchange, it was worth it!

Chapter 374: Gong Letian

A total of forty plus black-clad people had come this time. They were strung up in bunches of ten, and hung from the top of the restaurant's third floor as if they were grasshoppers. There were a total of five bunches in all, which made for a rather spectacular sight.

Many people had gathered outside the restaurant, pointing at them. Some of them were there to watch the show and some to laugh at them, but anyway, those black-clad men naturally became a laughingstock.

However, though there were many there watching the excitement, not one of them entered the restaurant for a meal, because they had all recognized the identities of these black-clad men. They were from the Lang Clan, a party on the level of the Spiritual Pedestal Tier—how could they easily let this matter go?

Thus, someone would definitely come from the Lang Clan later, and if they entered the restaurant to eat, they would naturally be dragged into the trouble as well.

Even if they skipped a meal, they wouldn't starve to death, would they?

But only moments later, a young man in embroidered robes was seen striding over. When he saw the human kabobs hanging from an upper floor of the restaurant, he could not help but laugh loudly. He walked into the restaurant and laughed. "Interesting, truly interesting!"

"Customer, how many are in your group?" a waiter immediately stepped forward to receive him.

"Just me alone." The young man found an empty table and sat down, seemingly very casual. There was a kind of soaring confidence in his manner. Obviously, he either came from a

powerful clan, or he himself was strong enough to be that confident.

"I heard that the Eight Treasures here are very famous. Bring out one of each for me," he said.

"All right!" The waiter immediately turned around and went into the kitchen.

Soon, the dishes were served. The young man only took one bite and his eyes widened, a disbelieving expression on his face.

Too delicious, it was too delicious, wasn't it!?

"Amazing! Amazing! Amazing!" he praised. "To be honest, the culinary skill is just average, but the ingredients themselves are too fresh and delicious. One single bite would make one unable to stop eating. It's incomparably magnificent."

"Hungry!" Hu Niu tugged on the corner of Ling Han's shirt. She didn't feel anything earlier on, but when she saw someone eating and drinking in front of her, she could not bear it any longer.

Ling Han nodded, and had the kitchen prepare lunch for them as well.

He, Hu Niu, Liu Yu Tong, Zhu Wu Jiu, Can Ye, and Guang Yuan all sat at one table. When the excellent dishes were served, they, too, began eating immediately.

The food they ate was naturally not something the food sold to customers could compare with. Their food not only contained demonic beast meat, there were even various valuable medicinal herbs included, and it was prepared into medicinal food for them. These medicinal herbs had grown inside the Black Tower for at least about a month or two, and were at least a hundred years old. What kind of concept was that?

It could be said that only Ling Han, in his last life, had that kind of tremendous wealth that allowed him to squander so lavishly in this way! However, he was only in the Spiritual Ocean Tier now,

and was also in the north region, an area that could be considered relatively poorer than the others. Even a party like the Winter Moon Sect could not do something like that!

In front of delicious food, all of them began to fight over the grub without care for their personal image. Of course, none of them could overcome Hu Niu; this little girl was a born foodie.

"This..." They were just eating in high spirits when they saw that young man in embroidered robes approach their table and say with a salivating expression, "Can I sit down and eat with you? I won't eat for free, I'll pay for this meal of yours!"

Ling Han smiled and said, "Those eight dishes are not enough for you?"

The young man in embroidered robes rubbed his nose and said, "They're indeed not enough. Moreover, the food on your table looks even more delicious!" His eyes lit up as he spoke, saliva practically dripping from his mouth.

True, with different ingredients, the aroma that wafted out was also different. Just take a look at how all those waiters were swallowing as if their lives depended on it.

Ling Han looked at the young man in embroidered robes, and thought him to be an interesting looking fellow. Thus, he said with a smile, "If you still have the appetite, please sit."

The young man in embroidered robes was greatly delighted and hurriedly sat. He drew out a pair of chopsticks and immediately began eating. He had already seen how things were like at this table; if he wanted to eat, he would have to fight over the food. No one would act reserved with him.

"En, wonderful! Too wonderful!" He took a bite of meat and his face instantly bloomed with pleasure. "This is the meat of the Level Two demonic beast, Confused Fragrance Deer, isn't it? No, that's not right; I've also eaten a considerable number of dishes with the

meat of the Confused Fragrance Deer inside, but their taste was definitely not as delicious as this! Moreover, there is also a great number of precious herbs inside. One bite is enough to make all the pores on my body open wide and bring a slight increase to my cultivation!"

He could not help but complain as he said, "Waiter, with such good stuff, why didn't you serve it to me? Is it because you think that I can't pay out the Origin Crystals for them?"

Ling Han laughed and said, "These dishes are not offered to customers."

The eyes of the young man in the embroidered robes lit up. He asked, "You're the boss of this restaurant?"

"That's right." Ling Han nodded.

"How about if you supply this kind of ingredients to me every day? You can ask for any price!" the young man in embroidered robes offered quickly.

Ling Han shook his head and said, "I've already said that these dishes are not offered to customers. They are only reserved for my own people."

The eyes of the young man in embroidered robes flashed, and he said, "My name is Gong Letian. How do I address you, brother?"

...If these words were heard by those people in the young man's circle, they would definitely exclaim in disbelief. That was because this guy came from a shocking background and had always maintained a prideful demeanor. Even in the Extreme Yang City, there were not many people that he took seriously. Yet now, he actually would so cordially and warmly address someone as brother... it was really inconceivable.

But that also showed that this guy was really a foodie.

Ling Han smiled calmly and answered, "Ling Han."

"Brother Ling, from this day onwards, you are my brother!" Gong Letian said cordially. "And since we're brothers, then these ingredients..." He stared at Ling Han anxiously, looking like a little puppy.

"Heng!" A cold humph was heard, and a young man was seen walking in. He had an ugly, dark expression on his face. "What insolence, to actually treat my subordinates like this!"

It was Lang Jun Cai.

Liu Yu Tong instantly stood up and said, "This place does not welcome you, get lost!"

"What a joke; in the Extreme Yang City, who would be qualified to tell me to get lost?" Lang Jun Cai sneered, an indignant expression on his face.

It should have been a cinch, yet they actually encountered a setback! He had been teasing a new girl at the Listen to the Rain Pavilion as per usual when he suddenly heard his servant report that the people that he had sent out that morning had all been taken down and were currently hung up as a public spectacle.

This matter drove him to fury, and he did not care even if he hadn't yet "devoured" that attractive little ****. He immediately rushed over here.

"Che, Lang Jun Cai, when have you become so high and mighty?" Gong Letian said suddenly. Moments ago, he still had the look of a pitiful puppy, but with a turn of the head, he assumed an austere, prideful bearing, "I'm not qualified to tell you to get lost, either?"

"Gong, Young Master Gong!" Lang Jun Cai was immediately stifled, and a fearful expression appeared on his face.

The Lang Clan could be considered as a respected clan in the Extreme Yang City, but the real source of their confidence came from that Earth Grade alchemist they depended on. However, the Gong Clan itself was a clan of alchemists. All three generations,

aside from Gong Letian, were alchemists; furthermore, Gong He Can of the older generation was a low level Earth Grade alchemist!

Compared to the Gong Clan, the Lang Clan naturally paled greatly in comparison. There was no way to compare the two at all.

The competition criteria for profligate young masters like them was of course their background. Even if Lang Jun Cai and Gong Letian were similarly in the fifth layer of the Spiritual Ocean Tier, Lang Jun Cai did not have the slightest confidence in front of Gong Letian.

"Don't affect my dining mood, get lost!" Gong Letian showed his forceful nature.

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